Arachnids

Arachnids are animals that have four pairs of legs. The most numerous in this group are spiders, hence the name. Ticks, scorpions, and house dust mites are also arachnids. These animals, like insects, generally live on land. A few individuals inhabit aquatic environments. The body of arachnids is protected by a chitinous exoskeleton, which may vary in thickness even among individual specimens; for example, the exoskeleton covering the abdomen of spiders is soft and thin, whereas that covering the cephalothorax is rigid, thick, and covered with dense chitinous hairs.

Characteristic features of the external structure of arachnids include:

* division of the body into cephalothorax and abdomen,
* absence of antennae,
* presence of four pairs of walking legs.