

# Groovy Dancers

Could you picture yourself dancing along side a groovy spider? If you happen to dance with any spider it would probably be the fascinating spider known as the peacock spider.

## The colourful and rare creature of Australia

Hopping around through the wonderful parts of Southern Australia are tiny little Peacock spiders. These rare spiders live in the scrub forests, the sand dunes, swamps, coastal areas, mountain tops and deserts. They like to live on the ground, or on twigs abandoned on the ground. They are very hard to locate.



## Survival design

The skilled and groovy peacock spider has been designed to suit the harsh southern environment. The colourful backs and dancing of the male peacock spiders are their most well known features.

Since peacock spiders are tiny, they can easily jump to places fast and can fit into small holes. The male dancing spider is used to impress a female so they can mate. If the female is not impressed she kills them unfortunately, she Lastly, they use their venom to kill their prey.

## Rapid Eaters

These tiny female cannibals and groovy males hunt prey that are the same size as themselves. They hunt for flies, moths, winged ants, and grass hoppers. Pouncing and jumping at their prey for food just to survive.

## Shaking butts!

Peacock spiders are tiny arthropods with eight eyes and fangs to bite and inject venom into their prey. The female peacock spider is mostly brown and the male peacock spiders have beautiful colourful abdomens.

Spider anatomy



Surprisingly, they only grow up to 0.4 cm. With this tiny size you would need good eyes or a magnifying glass to spot one.

A peacock spider's most useful feature is its fangs. The peacock spider uses its fangs to kill prey for their meal and to protect themselves.

## The greatest threats

Sadly, the greatest threat to the peacock spider is habitat loss. In 2018, the Western Australian government declared peacock spiders as an endangered species following a large fire that burnt out a huge area where they lived. More needs to be done to bring attention to these wonderful creatures.