

SOME COOL SPIDERS ON POSTAGE STAMPS

By Roy W. Rings B. U. 336

Iceland Posts announced January 1, 2005 that a European Garden Spider, *Araneus diadematus*, will be featured on a stamp to be issued on April 14, 2005. A companion stamp, showing the housefly, *Musca domestica*, will appear at the same time. The spider is among the largest spiders found in Icelandic nature. The females are almost without exception larger than the males, which is the norm for the Arthropoda. Two other species of this genus have been found in Iceland. One is the Marbled Spider, *Araneus marmoreus*, which is similar in size to *Araneus diadematus* and has been found twice in Iceland. The other is an Orb Web Spider, *Araneus cornutus*, which is common in northern Iceland. The presence of spiders in Iceland indicates that there are plenty of insects to sustain them. The European Garden Spider previously has been shown on other stamps e. g. Bhutan 1143x and Tanzania 1241. Other members of this genus have been portrayed on stamps such as the Orb Web Spider, *Araneus sector*, (Chad 253) and the Green Spider, *Araneus cinnabarinus*, (Falkland Islands 387 and 392).



Venomous spiders, such as the Black Widow Spider, *Latrodectus mactans*, have been illustrated philatelically (Marshall Islands 808a, Micronesia 519c, St. Vincent 3017d, and the United States 3351a). The Black Button Spider, *Latrodectus indistinctus*, was pictured on Transkei 191 and the European Black Widow, *Latrodectus pallidus*, can be found on Kazakhstan 209. The Katipo Spider, *Latrodectus katipo*, is featured on New Zealand, 1467. The Mediteranean Recluse Spider,

Loxosceles rufescens, is shown on Cape Verde 773. Tarantulas, wolf spiders, crab spiders, money spiders, ladybird spiders, sun spiders, cave spiders, huntsman spiders, spiny-backed spiders, jumping spiders, lynx spiders, camel spiders, baboon spiders, rain spiders, and wall spiders have all appeared on the philatelic stage. Now, amateur arachnologists can make their own spider collections without fear of being bitten.
