Urban Myths

1. Butterflies and moths can't fly if you rub the scales off their wings.
   • Not true, they can fly.

2. Black widow females eat the males after mating.
   • Only if the male isn’t fast enough.

3. Chiggers burrow under your skin and suck your blood.
   • False, chiggers simply feed and leave, like mosquitoes.

4. Brown recluse spiders are common in California, biting many people.
   • Brown recluse spiders are not found anywhere near California.

5. Ultrasonic devices help keep pests out of your kitchen.
   • False, few insects can hear, certainly not cockroaches.

6. Camel spiders scream like babies, inject toxins and prey on GI's in Iraq
   • Not true at any level.

7. Mosquitoes transmit HIV.
   • They cannot transmit HIV under any circumstances.

8. Earwigs will crawl into your ear and lay eggs in your brain.
   • They sometimes do crawl in ears by accident, but do not lay eggs.

   • No, they can only walk or scurry.

10. Insects don’t feel pain.
    • Probably true, their nervous systems are too limited; any injury would probably kill them.

11. It is illegal to catch preying mantids and monarchs.
    • There are no laws against this.

12. 25% of the protein in our diet is from swallowing spiders that crawl in our mouths at night.
    • This never happens.

13. Love bugs that plague the southeastern U.S. are the result of government experiments.
    • No, Mother Nature came up with these beauties.

14. 10% of the weight of your pillow is house dust mites.
    • False, house dust mites are only found in coastal and southeastern US.

15. All bees die after stinging.
    • False, only worker honey bees die after stinging.

16. Ticks must be removed by rotating them clockwise.
    • False, just pull the tick straight out.

17. Daddy long legs" are deadly, but their jaws are too small to bite humans.
    • False, their venom is no more poisonous than most spiders.

18. Female mantids always eat males they mate with.
    • Only if the male isn't fast enough.

For more information and additional information pages go to:
http://bohart@ucdavis.edu