

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.
9. Bedbugs bore, burrow, dig and fly.
 - 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.

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