

Spiders and crocodiles: older than thought

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British scientists have reportedly found a fossilized spider preserved in amber that suggests spiders have existed much longer than thought.

The journal *Biology Letters* says a Manchester University research team that studied the preserved spider found in Spain now believes orb-weaving spiders arrived during the Jurassic period, not the Cretaceous period, making them about 100 million years older than has been believed, the *Times* of London reported Wednesday.

And scientists say crocodiles are about 20 million years older than previously thought. The *Times* says that finding stems from the discovery of a fossilized crocodile that lived up to 98 million years ago in Australia.

The *Proceedings of the Royal Society* says the 3-foot-long creature probably resembled the last common ancestor of modern crocodiles.

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