

Name: _____ Date: _____

New Discoveries: Ladybird Spider



In addition to the four black dots on its red abdomen, the male *Eresus hermani* has red on six of its eight legs, making it look as if it's ready for a fabulous costume party. (The researchers are big fans; they call velvet spiders in the family *Eresidae* "among the most attractive spiders in Europe," in the study, published April 6 in the journal *ZooKeys*.) Researchers have found a new species of ladybird spider crawling around

Hungary. The male ladybird spiders, or those spiders in the genus *Eresus*, are known for the distinctive red-and-black ladybuglike markings on their abdomens, and the new species named *Eresus hermani* is no exception.

After studying 20 males, 25 females and four juveniles of *E. hermani*, the researchers found the males tend to be smaller, and the females tend to be larger, than other Central European spiders in the genus. On average, males are 0.13 inches (3.4 millim) long, and females are 0.3 inches (8.2 mm) long, the researchers found. The spiders mate in the early spring.

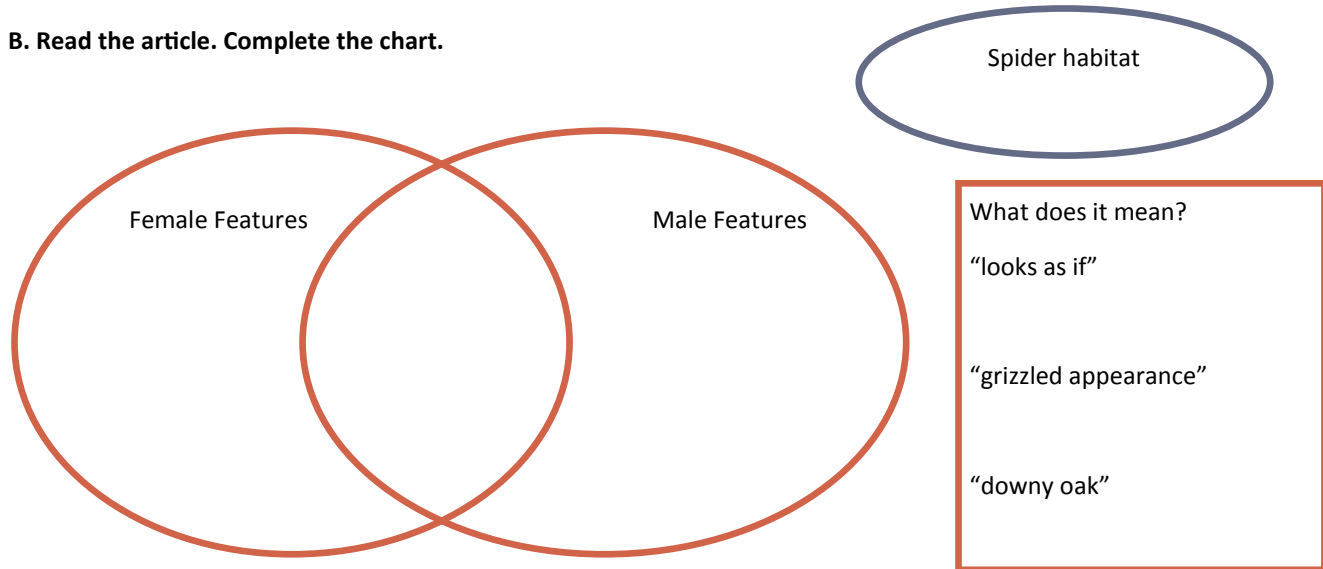
E. hermani females aren't as colorful as the males. They have light gray, brown and black coloring, "giving [the female's head] a light, grizzled appearance," the researchers said in the study. The spiders are found in downy oak scrubland, open rocky grasslands and degraded scrubland in Hungary, the researchers said.

*Article Source: <http://www.livescience.com/50686-new-species-lizards-frogs-spiders.html>

*Photo Source: Kovács G. et al. *ZooKeys* 2015

A. Where was the new species found? _____

B. Read the article. Complete the chart.



C. Scientists say these spiders are "attractive". What do you think? Why? Share your opinion with your partner.