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Q37

Regarding Peacock tarantula (Gooty tarantula), consider the following statements: I. It is an omnivorous crustacean. II. Its natural habitat in India is only limited to some forest areas. III. In its natural habitat, it is an arboreal species. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) I only (b) I and III (c) II only (d) II and III Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2025 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology
Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

I only. That would keep the crustacean line and drop habitat.

(b)

- **I and III. I fails:** it is a spider, not a crustacean.

(c)

II only. That drops the arboreal line, which is keyed.

(d) Official key

II and III. Natural habitat in India is a tiny Eastern Ghats forest pocket, and in the wild it is arboreal. It is not an omnivorous crustacean.

Summary

Official Set A key is (d) II and III. The Gooty / Peacock tarantula (*Poecilotheria metallica*) is a mygalomorph spider of a restricted forest habitat in the Eastern Ghats, and it is arboreal. Statement I is the planted error: crustacean and omnivore are the wrong phylum and diet story. So II and III hold; I does not.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Gooty tarantula (*Poecilotheria metallica*)

Also called peacock tarantula. Critically endangered. Eastern Ghats, Andhra Pradesh.

Poecilotheria

Arboreal ornamental tarantulas of India and Sri Lanka. CITES-listed in the pet-trade story.

Crustacean vs arachnid

Spiders are arachnids. Crustaceans are crabs, prawns, krill. A standard classification trap.

CITES Appendix II (tarantulas)

Several Poeciloteria species are listed to police the ornamental trade.

Eastern Ghats endemics

The same thin forest belt as Jerdon's courser neighbourhood questions.

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