

Rick Vetter received a B.S. in Biology from Adelphi University (Long Island, NY) and a M.S. in Zoology from Arizona State University. He spent 32 years as a staff research associate in Entomology at Univ. Calif. Riverside, now retired. Rick is considered an expert on medically important spiders and the effects of their bites. In regard to this, Rick has published 150 peer-review articles in scientific and medical journals including the New England Journal of Medicine, Annals of Emergency Medicine, Toxicon, Journal of Medical Entomology and Journal of Arachnology, mostly on spider biology and medical aspects. Rick is also the spider liaison to the pest control industry, having revised the spider chapter in the most recent editions of the Mallis Handbook of Pest Control and also co-authoring the PCT Field Guide for the Management of Urban Spiders as well as occasionally publishing spider articles in PCT magazine. In addition, he wrote the book, "The Brown Recluse Spider" published by Cornell University Press. In 2020, Rick was awarded the satirical yet still prestigious Ig Nobel Prize in Entomology for his publication on arachnophobic entomologists.