

Process of Asphyxiation: One might wonder why there are so many spiders on La Gonave. There are spiders everywhere. In your water glass when you get up in the night will be a mama and 40 tiny babies. Under all chairs are pretty decorations of white puffy balls that eventually explode releasing a torrent of millions of babies who scurry to outrun the chameleons waiting for lunch. Along all ledges, edges, cracks, ceiling joints, in and under everything, including the bed net and eyeglass cases are spiders, eggs and webs. It seems there are so many spiders because there are so many Papillion!

Now, Papillion are also found everywhere! Along the roads and sewage places, in the toilet, on the light cord, in clouds around any light source, especially little reading lights, drowning in candles, in your ears or underwear, and also the water glass, your food, under the table cloth (how do they do that?) in the light sockets in hard balls and between the pages of your book. Millions and zillions of tiny ones or some with a 6 inch wing span. Those are hard for the lizards to eat and really tear up the spider's web. Lizards chase them along the walls and chose either moth or spider, whichever comes first.

We understand lizards are necessary because they feast on Papillion and spiders that find themselves on a flat surface. I think that is why the spiders chose places lizards find too slick or confining. We have enticed large geckos as house pets but they aren't fond of being confined to quarters. They prefer to line up at the bottom of the stairs each morning and wait for the sweeping process...or prowl window screens for the unsuspecting moths of morning, trying to escape. Not sure what moths eat.

Last night I thought I would escape moths in my shirt, book and dancing on my computer screen by going to bed where we have a bed net, of course. First, a visit to the toilet and one last look at the gorgeous moon and clear sky...still no rain. As I opened the back door a very large tarantula was attempting to follow a Haitian sized cockroach through the edge of the door.

Following two recent hatchlings of a zillion spiders each, I explained, we certainly did not need his furry, saucer sized body as a guest. Tarantulas eat mice and rats and currently our crop has moved on and I feared he might eat the geckos! He retreated before the broom but hid over the edge of the porch. I stepped down for better position and his same size partner wanted to argue. A prod with the broom handle resulted in Dirty Harry, jumping 6 foot into the brush, followed by his friend then both scurried down the road seeking hospitable shelter.

This morning, Joe and Alicia went to the guest house to complete the painting project and I am here to prepare my presentation to the Methodist Women's Conference. I began looking "under" everything and eventually emptied a fairly large can of spider spray under all surfaces. A mass "spider killer," I claim a significant reduction for the day. When I can breathe again, and the headache goes away, I will get to work on my presentation. I will use information from "Response" magazine, and talk of women in mission to women, all over the world. Alicia will distribute over 200 Birthing Kits to the church women to distribute in their communities inviting them into women's mission.

Shirley, Haiti, July 2, 2009. www.centralumclawrence.org <http://gbgmlagonave.blogspot.com>