

The *Real* Miss Muffet



That bit in the nursery rhyme about a spider sitting down next to Melissa “Miss” Muffet and frightening her away? Not true! See, the spider in question was a *Theraphosa blondim*, or Goliath birdeater – a very big tarantula with a very nasty bite. And bite Miss Muffet it did. The poor girl immediately went into neurogenic shock. When, a day later, Melissa awoke, she began to exhibit bizarre, arachnoid characteristics. Most evident, of course, is the hair. But don’t let Melissa’s cheery smile fool you because right behind those pearly white choppers are venom-filled fangs that can take down an unwary human in minutes! And, trust me, you *don’t* want to know about her silk glands and spinneret.