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Title:	Optically probing torsional superelasticity in spider silks
Authors:	Kumar, Bhupesh (/jspui/browse?type=author&value=Kumar%2C+Bhupesh)
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	Singh, K.P. (/jspui/browse?type=author&value=Singh%2C+K.P.)
Keywords:	Optical technique
	Sensitive
	Investigate torsion
	Mechanics
ssue Date:	2013
Publisher:	American Institute of Physics
Citation:	Applied Physics Letters, 103(20).
Abstract:	We investigate torsion mechanics of various spider silks using a sensitive optical technique. We
	find that spider silks are torsionally superelastic in that they can reversibly withstand great torsion strains of over 102–3 rotations per cm before failure. Among various silks from a spider, we find
	the failure twist-strain is greatest in the sticky capture silk followed by dragline and egg-case silk.
	Our in situ laser-diffraction measurements reveal that torsional strains on the silks induce a nano-
	scale transverse compression in its diameter that is linear and reversible. These unique torsional
	properties of the silks could find applications in silk-based materials and devices.
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