



## Bite claim doesn't have legs

AUSTRALIAN scientists are sceptical about a reports that a British man could lose a kidney after being bitten by a spider.

Newspaper reports from the UK said Alex Cann, 39, was bitten by a South Australian male brown tree spider while on holiday near Alice Springs.

When he returned home to London the bite started to swell up.

After three weeks in hospital doctors discovered a growth on his kidney, which they believe might have been caused by the spider bite.

But Associate Professor Geoff

Isbister, a clinical toxicologist from the Menzies School of Health Research, said he had never heard of the SA male brown tree spider.

He said it was almost impossible to tell what had actually happened.

"This man has clearly got a serious medical condition and because there is no diagnosis spiders are blamed, as always," he said.

"It is unclear if he was definitely bitten by the spider. It clearly wasn't identified properly unless it was collected and sent to an arachnologist."