

Colletes Bhutanicus

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Environment

Why in News?

Scientists have recorded the rare, solitary Himalayan bee *Colletes Bhutanicus* in Arunachal Pradesh for the first time.

- **Colletes bhutanicus** - *Colletes bhutanicus* is a solitary Himalayan bee.
- Unlike honeybees, *Colletes* bees generally do not live in large colonies or hives.
- Individual females typically construct and occupy their own nests.
- Despite being solitary, they are important pollinators.
- **Key Facts**

Feature	Details
Species	<i>Colletes bhutanicus</i>
Genus	<i>Colletes</i>
Type	Solitary bee
First Indian record	Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh
Elevation recorded	1,500-3,800 m
Previously known from	Bhutan and China
Major ecological role	Pollination

- **Habitat** - The bee was recorded in Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh at elevations between 1,500 and 3,800 metres.
- Its occurrence in Tawang is significant because it extends the known distribution of the species into India and the eastern Himalayas.
- **Bee Visiting Plants** - Researchers observed *C. bhutanicus* visiting 25 species of flowering plants, including:
 - Mustard
 - Buckwheat
 - Coriander
 - Beans
 - Chilli
 - Eggplant
- This indicates that the bee interacts with both wild vegetation and cultivated crops.



- **Importance of Solitary Bees**

- Solitary bees play an important role in pollination.
- While collecting pollen and nectar, they transfer pollen between flowers.
- This facilitates plant reproduction.
- They can contribute to the productivity of flowering crops.
- Native pollinators are particularly important for maintaining ecosystem functioning and agricultural productivity.

- **Earlier Distribution of *C. bhutanicus***- Before its Indian record, the species was known from:

- Bhutan
- China, including the Xizang (Tibet) region

- Its presence in Tawang therefore adds India to its known geographical distribution.

Reference

[India Today | Colletes Bhutanicus](#)