

New Hoverfly species

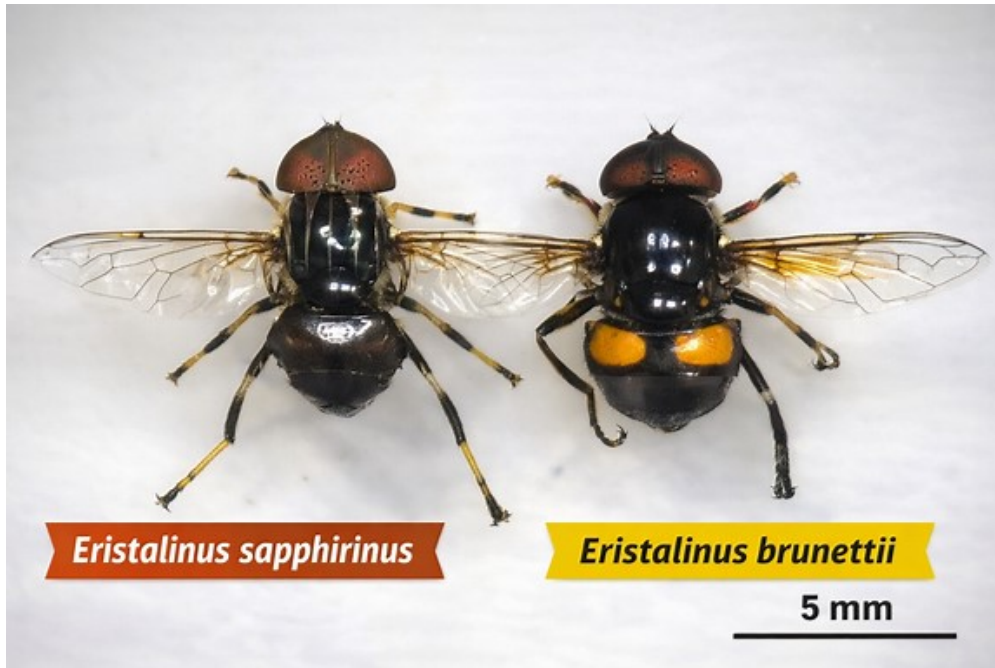
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Why in News?

Recently, researchers at the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered two new species of hoverflies in the Gangetic Plains of West Bengal.

- **Scientific name** - *Eristalinus sapphirinus* and *Eristalinus brunettii*.
- **Family** - Syrphidae.
- **Genus** - *Eristalinus*, last major contribution to this genus was recorded in 1923.
- **Key Differences & Features**

Eristalinus sapphirinus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Named for its striking, <i>metallic sapphire-blue coloration</i>. • Males are distinguished by a head that strongly tapers toward the vertex, as well as a specific appendix on the loop of the R₄₊₅ wing vein.
Eristalinus brunettii	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Named in honor of the renowned entomologist <i>Enrico Adelelmo Brunetti</i>, who made immense contributions to the historical study of Indian flies. • While initially resembling the related species <i>Eristalinus polychromata</i>, it was confirmed as a distinct evolutionary lineage.



- **Methodology and Ecological Role**

- **Taxonomic Approach** - The research team used an integrative approach, combining traditional morphological identification with advanced mitochondrial COI DNA barcoding to officially distinguish the species.
- **Ecological Importance** - Hoverflies are vital ecological components.
- Adult flies are critical pollinators that visit flowering plants, while their larvae live in aquatic habitats and help decompose organic matter.

Reference

[Times of india | Eristalinus sapphirinus and Eristalinus brunettii](#)