New Hoverfly species

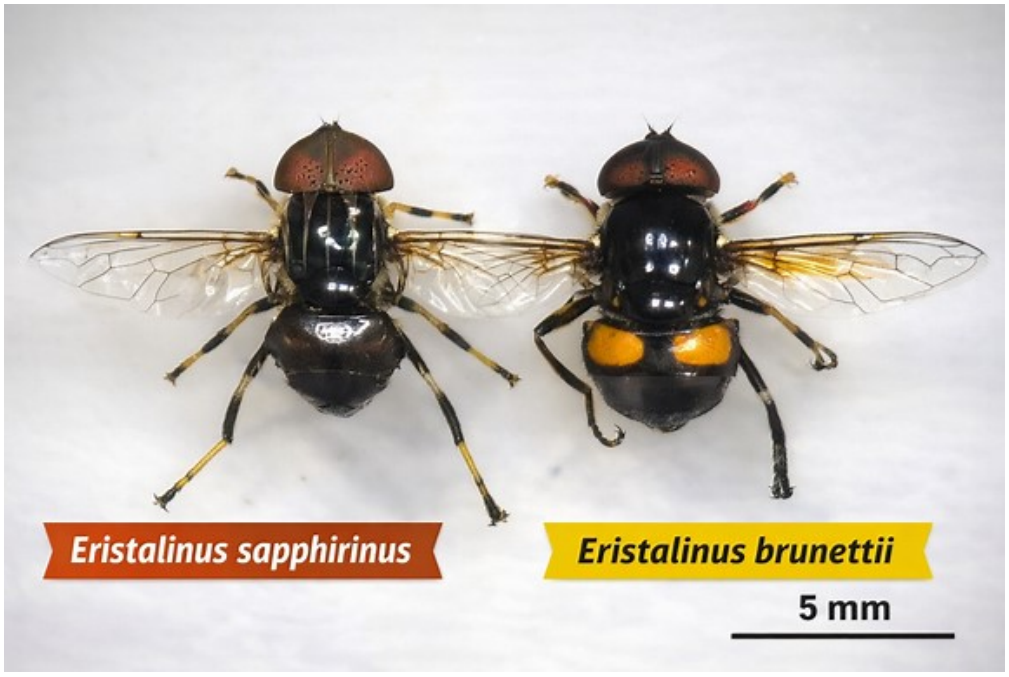
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Why in News?

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	• Named for its striking, ***metallic sapphire-blue coloration.*** • Males are distinguished by a head that strongly tapers toward the vertex, as well as a specific appendix on the loop of the R_{4+5} wing vein.
Eristalinus brunettii	• Named in honor of the renowned entomologist ***Enrico Adelelmo Brunetti,*** who made immense contributions to the historical study of Indian flies. • While initially resembling the related species Eristalinus polychromata, 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]

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
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