

New Spider Species

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Why in News?

Recently, ZSI researchers discovered 2 new spider species in subterranean caves of Meghalaya and canopies of Andhra Pradesh.

Attribute	Simonia lawbah (Cave Ray Spider)	Hamataliwa papikonda (Canopy Lynx Spider)
Scientific Name	<i>Simonia lawbah</i>	<i>Hamataliwa papikonda</i>
Family	Ray Spiders (Theridiosomatidae)	Lynx Spiders (Oxyopidae)
Location	Krem Lawbah Cave, Lawbah, Meghalaya	Papikonda National Park, Andhra Pradesh
Ecosystem	Subterranean cave (troglophilic)	Mixed deciduous forest canopy
Body Size	Microscopic	Petite
Key Feature	Cone-shaped “ray webs” used as slingshots to catch flying insects	Hexagonal eye structure, spiny legs, high-speed arboreal hunting (no webs)
Taxonomic Significance	First record of genus <i>Simonia</i> in India	First record of genus <i>Hamataliwa</i> in Andhra Pradesh
Ecological Role	Cave-dwelling predator using web mechanics	Agile canopy predator relying on speed and vision
Significance	Expands distribution of Theridiosomatidae; highlights hidden cave biodiversity	Highlights Eastern Ghats as evolutionary pocket; expands Oxyopidae records

Reference

