

## Newly discovered Dragonflies in Northeast India

*Prelims: Current events of national importance | Biodiversity & Conservation*

### Why in News?

Recently, Scientists have discovered 3 new species of dragonflies in Northeast India.

- **3 newly identified species**
  - Clouded Boghawker (*Sarasaeschna nuboides*)
  - Siang Boghawker (*Sarasaeschna sigotaayo*)
  - Long tailed Boghawker (*Sarasaeschna dosdewaensis*)

### Common Features

- **Order** - Odonata.
- **Family** - Aeshnidae (boghawkers).
- **Morphology** - Large multifaceted eyes, two pairs of wings, elongated body
- **Vision** - Eyes with up to 30,000 facets, nearly 360° vision
- **Behaviour** - Fast flyers, voracious predators of mosquitoes and flies
- **Evolutionary Note** - Predate dinosaurs by over 100 million years
- **Habitat & Distribution** - Found near freshwater habitats worldwide; Northeast India is recognised as an odonate biodiversity hotspot.

### Distinct Features

<b>Clouded Boghawker (<i>Sarasaeschna nuboides</i>)</b>	
<b>Habitat</b>	Shallow shaded forest ponds in humid valleys
<b>Distribution</b>	Endemic to Siang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh
<b>Appearance</b>	Subtle differences in abdominal segment shape and caudal appendages



### Siang Boghawker (*Sarasaeschna sigotaayo*)

<b>Habitat</b>	Same Siang Valley ponds, perching close to water.
<b>Distribution</b>	Endemic to Siang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh
<b>Appearance</b>	Differentiated by male caudal appendage structure and wing venation patterns



### Long-tailed Boghawker (*Sarasaeschna dosdewaensis*)

<b>Habitat</b>	Forest trail ponds and streams
<b>Distribution</b>	Endemic to Karimganj district, Assam
<b>Appearance</b>	Characterised by elongated abdominal segments (long-tailed)



- **Ecological Importance**

- **Predators** - Natural control of mosquito populations

- **Indicators** - Reflect freshwater ecosystem health
- **Evolutionary Significance** - Ancient lineage, valuable for biodiversity studies.

### Quick Facts

- **Dragonflies and Damselflies** - Both belong *Odonata* and they are found in the same freshwater habitats. But there are key differences listed below

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Dragonflies	Damselflies
• Suborder - Anisoptera	• Suborder - Zygoptera
• Larger, robust	• Smaller, delicate
• Wings held horizontal at rest	• Wings held vertical & together at rest
• Strong, fast fliers	• Slower, weaker fliers
• Eyes are large and often touch at the top of the head.	• Eyes are separated, not touching

### Reference

[Arunachal Observer | Dragonflies in Northeast India](#)

