

Oxyserphus Narendrani - Parasitic Wasp

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Species

Why in News?

Recently, Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) discovered a new species of parasitic wasp in Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, Assam.

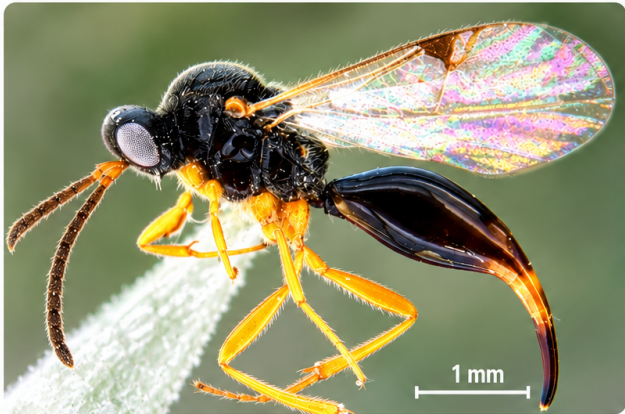
Oxyserphus Narendrani

Oxyserphus narendrani

New species of parasitic wasp discovered in Assam



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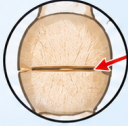
	Species	<i>Oxyserphus narendrani</i>
	Type	New species of parasitic wasp
	Family	Proctotrupidae
	Genus	<i>Oxyserphus</i>
	Location	Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, Assam
	Discovery institution	Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)
	Collection method	Yellow pan trap 
	Date of collection	November 2024
	Size	~ 3.3 mm
	Habitat	Lowland forest
	Special significance	First official identification of this group in the Oriental region
	Named after	Late Dr T. C. Narendran, noted Indian parasitic-wasp taxonomist

- It represents the **1st official record** of this rare group of wasps from the **Oriental region**.
- The genus *Oxyserphus* is rarely represented in insect collections.
- These species are typically found in high-altitude environments, so their presence in a lowland forest is significant.
- **Diagnostic Characteristics** - The species is differentiated from related taxa based on **microscopic morphological characteristics**.
- **Key distinguishing features**
 - **A black head**
 - **A brownish-black body**

- **Yellow legs**
- **A single horizontal groove** present on the lateral side of the thorax
- **A relatively short ovipositor sheath**
- A distinctive **wing spot**

Comparison with *Oxyserphus sulcatus*



Character	<i>O. narendrani</i>	<i>O. sulcatus</i>
 Thoracic grooves	 Single horizontal groove	 6-7 radiating grooves
 Ovipositor sheath	 Shorter	 Relatively longer
 Distribution	 India / Oriental region	 Australia

- **Parasitic wasps** - These are insects that deposit **their eggs in or on other organisms**, typically targeting other insects or arthropods.
- The larvae of parasitic wasps develop by utilizing the host organism for nourishment and growth.
- Consequently, parasitic wasps play a significant role in **regulating populations of other insect species**.
- Many species of parasitic wasps contribute to the **natural biological control** of insect pests.

Dark Taxa - Organisms with poorly known diversity, hard detection, and undocumented distribution.

- **Yellow Pan Trap** - It was employed to collect the specimen.
- A yellow pan trap is a **bright yellow, water-filled dish** commonly utilized by entomologists.
- This trap attracts a range of small insect species.
- It is particularly useful for conducting **insect biodiversity surveys and sampling**.

Dibru-Saikhowa National Park

- **Location** - Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts, Assam.
- **Origin** - Established to conserve the rare white-winged wood duck.
- **Boundaries** - Bordered by the Brahmaputra and Lohit rivers to the north, and the Dibru river to the south.
- **Vegetation** - Semi-evergreen and deciduous forests, canebrakes, and grasslands.
- The park contains the **largest Salix swamp forest** in Northeast India.
- **Climate** - Tropical monsoon with hot, wet summers and cool, dry winters.
- **Flora** - Key species include Hollong, Nahor, Simul, Sissoo, Khair, and Jamun.
- **Fauna** - Notable wildlife includes Elephant, Wild Water Buffalo, Leopard, Clouded Leopard, Fishing Cat, Jungle Cat, Hog Deer, Sambar, and Barking Deer.

Reference

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