

Spoon-tailed Duskhawker

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Environment

Why in News?

Spoon-tailed duskhawker has been recorded for the first time with verifiable photographic evidence in Arunachal Pradesh.

- It was photographed on the Miao-Vijaynagar Road inside Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve.
- The finding strengthens India's Odonata checklist.
- **Common name** - Spoon-tailed duskhawker
- **Scientific name** - *Gynacantha basiguttata*
- **Order** - Odonata

***Odonata** is an order of predatory flying insects. It includes Dragonflies, Damselflies.*

- **Group** - Dragonfly
- **Location of record** - Namdapha National Park & Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh
- **Distribution** - Parts of Southeast Asia
- **Identification features**
 - Black T-shaped mark on the frons.
 - Olive-green thorax without a stripe.
 - Distinctive wing pigmentation.
 - Narrow but expanded cerci, giving the abdominal appendages a spoon-like appearance.
- **Taxonomic reference** - Earlier literature had mentioned the species in India, but the record was considered doubtful because it was based only on female specimens.
- It was later excluded from recent Indian and South Asian Odonata checklists.
- The new photographic evidence supports its inclusion in India's Odonata checklist.
- No physical specimen was collected, in accordance with forest regulations and the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022.



Arunachal Pradesh records its first spoon-tailed duskhawker dragonfly, enhancing India's dragonfly species list significantly. Photo: Special Arrangement

Namdapha National Park & Tiger Reserve

- **Located in** - *Arunachal Pradesh*.
- **Situated in** - Eastern Himalayas.
- It is both a *National Park and Tiger Reserve*.
- **Known for** - Exceptionally high biodiversity and its location within the Indo-Burma biodiversity region.

Reference

[The Hindu| Spoon-tailed Duskhawker](#)