

Indopotamon Alipurduarensis

May 6, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



Indopotamon Alipurduarensis Latest News

Scientists recently discovered a new species of freshwater crab named *Indopotamon alipurduarensis* beneath the agricultural fields of West Bengal.

About *Indopotamon Alipurduarensis*

- It is a new species of **freshwater crab**.
- It was discovered in the **sub-Himalayan Dooars region** of **West Bengal**.
- It marks **only the second species** ever recorded in the **Indopotamon genus** and pushes the total number of known freshwater crab species in India to 183.
- The crabs were discovered living in remarkably **deep burrows**, plunging up to 1.5 metres into the **muddy soil of local rice fields**.
- These **highly secretive animals** spend the **vast majority of the year hidden** securely **underground**.
- They only **emerge** from their subterranean homes **during** the region's **heavy rainy season**, making them visible to researchers and locals only between May and August.

- The crab's newly assigned scientific name, **alipurduarensis**, is a direct nod to its origins, **honouring the Alipurduar district of West Bengal**.
- **Features:**
 - The new crab sports a striking **greyish shell bordered with vibrant orange-red edges and claws**.
 - It boasts a **visibly deeper and broader shell**.
 - The specialised male reproductive appendages, known as gonopods, are stouter with an abruptly narrowed section and a blunt tip, unlike the sharply pointed organs of its cousins.
 - Similarly, the female's reproductive openings (vulvae) are spaced much wider apart and are uniquely covered by a protruding sternal plate.

Source: RM

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/indopotamon-alipurduarensis/>

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