

New Spider Species

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New Spider Species Latest News

The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has discovered two new spider species named *Psechrus ntu* and *Psechrus phenshunyu*.

About *Psechrus ntu* and *Psechrus phenshunyu*

- These are two newly discovered **spider species** from the **genus *Psechrus***.
 - *Psechrus* are a group of spiders belonging to the family Psechridae, commonly known for **constructing large horizontal sheet webs in moist forest habitats**.
- Both species were **discovered in Nagaland** and named after the local villages where they were first documented — Ntu and Phenshunyu.
- They exhibit several specialized anatomical characteristics associated with life in humid forest ecosystems:
 - **Elongated and dorsoventrally flattened body structures.**
 - Exceptionally **long anterior legs adapted for environmental sensing**.
 - **Fine sensory hair structures** aiding vibration detection.

- Expanded web-building behavior suited to dense vegetation zones.
- Such traits are considered **adaptive advantages for navigating dimly lit forest microhabitats** where **tactile and vibrational perception** become essential for survival.
- The spiders **construct expansive horizontal sheet-like webs** that function both as **prey-capture systems** and **environmental monitoring platforms**.
- A male **Psecrus himalayanus** was **observed sharing a web with Psecrus phenshuny**.
- This behavior, known as a **heterospecific association**, is **extremely rare among spiders** because most spider species exhibit territorial or cannibalistic tendencies.

Other Findings

- The ZSI team also documented the **occurrence of Psecrus himalayanus in Northeast India for the first time**.
- This represents a major range extension from its previously known Himalayan distribution.
- ZSI researchers completed the **first major taxonomic reassessment of Indian whip scorpions in over 100 years**.
- **Whip scorpions** belong to the order Thelyphonida, an **ancient and highly specialized arachnid** lineage **distinct from true scorpions**.
- Despite their intimidating appearance, whip scorpions are **non-venomous and harmless to humans**.
- Whip scorpions possess several **unique evolutionary adaptations**:
 - A **long whip-like flagellum** used for **sensory navigation**
 - Enlarged pedipalps functioning as grasping appendages
 - **Acid-spraying defensive glands**
 - **Strong nocturnal and burrowing behavior**
- Their common **nickname “vinegaroon”** derives from the **acetic acid-like spray** they **release when threatened**.

Source: **TOI**

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/new-spider-species/>

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