

Mesalina bishnoi

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Mesalina bishnoi Latest News

A new species of lizard, Mesalina Bishnoi, has been recently discovered in Rajasthan.

About Mesalina bishnoi

- It is a **new species of lizard**.
- It has been discovered near Gajner in Bikaner district, **Rajasthan**.
- The species was found in an **arid landscape** consisting of hard, rocky soil with sparse desert vegetation.
- It marks the **first confirmed record of the genus Mesalina in India**.
 - The **genus Mesalina** comprises **small, fast-moving, diurnal lizards** adapted to **arid and semi-arid landscapes**.
 - Although a historical reference by British zoologist Malcolm A Smith in 1935 mentioned the presence of Mesalina watsonana in Jaisalmer, no specimen-based evidence existed to confirm the genus's occurrence in India.

- Mesalina bishnoi is named in **recognition of the Bishnoi community's** enduring commitment to wildlife and nature conservation.
- The lizard is a **small-bodied species** with a snout-vent length of 39.2 mm.
- It displays a **greyish to olive-brown colouration**, marked by a **pair of dorsolateral stripes extending from the neck towards the tail**.
- **Distinctive black markings** occur **behind the eyes**, while the **body bears irregular dark blotches** interspersed with white spots, giving it a mottled appearance.
- The **underside** is **pale grey to offwhite**.
- At present, Mesalina bishnoi is known only from its type locality in the Bikaner district and is **considered endemic to the Thar biogeographic province**.

Source: TOI

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/mesalina-bishnoi/>

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