

New Hoverfly Species

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New Hoverfly Species Latest News

Researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) recently discovered two new species of hoverflies named *Eristalinus sapphirinus* and *Eristalinus brunettii* from the Gangetic Plains of West Bengal.

About *Eristalinus sapphirinus* and *Eristalinus brunettii*

- These are two new **species of hoverflies**.
- They were discovered from the **Gangetic Plains of West Bengal**.
- ***Eristalinus sapphirinus*** is named for its striking, sapphire-blue metallic coloration.
- ***Eristalinus brunettii*** is named in honour of entomologist **Enrico Adelelmo Brunetti**, acknowledging his immense historical **contributions to the study of Indian Diptera (flies)**.
- The discovery expands the known diversity of the *Eristalinus* genus in India, with the last major contribution to the group's taxonomy dating back to 1923.
- Members of the ***Eristalinus* genus support ecosystems in two distinct life stages**.
 - **As adults**, they act as **critical pollinators** for wild and cultivated plants.

- **As larvae** (commonly known as “**rat-tailed maggots**”), **they develop in aquatic habitats** where they **decompose organic matter** and **recycle essential nutrients**.

What are Hoverflies?

- Hoverflies, often referred to as **flower flies or drone flies**, are **beneficial insects** that **appear in large numbers** during the **spring and summer**.
- They belong to the order Diptera and the family Syrphidae.
- They are often **mistaken for bees or wasps** and can cause undue fear over possible stings.
- However, they **do not possess stingers**.
- Hoverflies can be readily **distinguished from wasps and bees by their single pair of wings**. In comparison, bees and wasps have two pairs of wings.
- Hover flies also have a **typical fly head with short antennae and bulbous eyes**.
- **Adult hover flies** are 4-10 mm long and have **dark flattened bodies with black and yellow markings**.
- **During flight**, many hover flies **move in a characteristic way**. As their name suggests, they **hover over objects but will also dart to and fro**.
- Hoverflies are among the **most important pollinators globally**, providing pollination services to many crops and natural vegetation.

Source: PIB

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

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