

Spilomena malabarica

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Spilomena malabarica Latest News

Scientists in India recently discovered a new species of wasp named Spilomena malabarica.

About Spilomena malabarica

- It is a new species of **aphid wasp that hunts plant pests**.
- It was discovered in the Kozhikode district of **Kerala**.
- The scientists chose the specific **name malabarica** in honour of the historic **Malabar region of Kerala**, where the type specimen was collected.
- This find marks the **11th species** of this specific wasp **genus found in India** and the 98th discovered worldwide.
- Measuring just over 3.5 millimetres long, this **tiny black-and-brown insect** shows highly distinctive features under a microscope.
- It **stands out** from its closest relatives due to a **specific wing pattern**.

- It possesses **only a single submarginal cell**, a **distinct enclosed area formed by veins on its front wing**.
- While it **shares this rare wing trait with its closest known cousin, Spilomena unus**, the *Spilomena malabarica* is easily **distinguished by its head shape**.
- Its **head** is **not unusually elongated**; the distance between its eyes and the top of its head is well proportioned; and it features a **flatter face, known scientifically as a less convex clypeus**, setting it apart from other wasps in its family.

News: RM

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/spilomena-malabarica/>

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