

Lestes Paloti

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Lestes Paloti Latest News

A team of odonatologists has discovered a new species of spreadwing damselfly, *Lestes paloti*, from the **Western Ghats** in Kerala.

About Lestes Paloti

- It is a new species of **spreadwing damselfly** discovered in Kerala.
- *Lestes paloti* is the **first new species** described in the **genus Lestes from India** since *Lestes garoensis* was described by Lahiri in 1987.
- **Habitat:** It **inhabits scrub vegetation** around homesteads and on laterite hillocks, often away from open water bodies.
- **Characteristics:** It **changes from brown** during the dry season to bluish during the monsoon.

What are Damselflies?

- They are a group **of predatory**, aerial insects that are in **the order Odonata**.

- **Habitat of Damselflies:** Damselflies are found mainly near **shallow, freshwater habitats** and are graceful fliers with slender bodies and long, filmy, net-veined wings.
- They are generally **smaller, more delicate, and fly weakly** in comparison with dragonflies.
- Spreadwing damselflies are easy to identify as they **hold their wings in a “V” shape** over their abdomens.

Source: TH

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