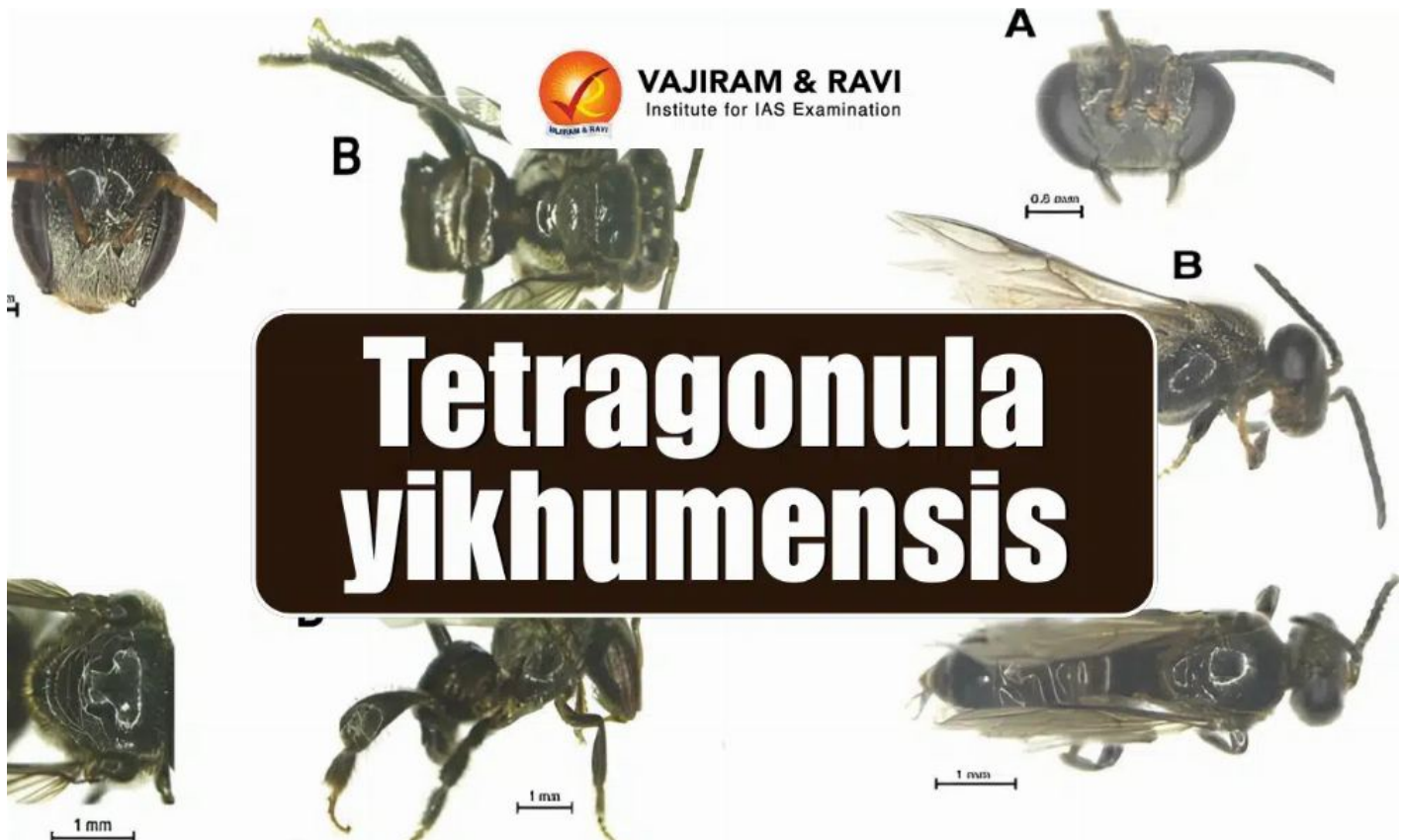


Tetragonula yikhumensis

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Tetragonula yikhumensis Latest News

A team of researchers recently discovered a new species of stingless bee named *Tetragonula yikhumensis* in Wokha district, Nagaland.

About *Tetragonula yikhumensis*

- It is a new species of **stingless bee**.
- It was discovered in Wokha district, **Nagaland**.
- It is **named after Yikhum village**, where it was first collected.
- It is a **subterranean species** that **nects underground** and is distinguished by its size, unique morphology, and nest architecture.
- It measures about **5.59 mm in body length**, making it the **largest stingless bee recorded in India**.
- The discovery increases the number of stingless bee species known from India from 25 to 26, while the genus *Tetragonula* now comprises 18 species in the country.
- It is only the **second underground-nesting species of the genus** documented in **India**.

- Researchers found that the **colonies** were built more than **two metres below the ground**.
- The nests comprised **distinct chambers for honey, pollen, and brood, protected by hard layers of batumen** and **connected to the surface** through **narrow entrance tunnels**.
- The **Lotha community** in Wokha **refers** to these subterranean stingless bees as **“litsuk”, or “ground bees”**, and highly **values their honey** and **bee pollen for their medicinal properties**.

News: EMN

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/tetragonula-yikhumensis/>

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