

Colletes bhutanicus

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Colletes bhutanicus Latest News

Recently, *Colletes bhutanicus* has been recorded for the first time in India from Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh by scientists of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).

About *Colletes bhutanicus*

- It is a rare solitary **Himalayan plasterer bee**, recorded from Arunachal **Pradesh** for the first time.
- The bee **was found** at elevations **ranging from 1,500 metres to 3,800 metres**.
- **Distribution:** It has been recorded from **Bhutan and China**, including the Xizang region.
- **Features**
 - Unlike honeybees, *Colletes* bees are **solitary and do not live in large colonies**.
 - **Individual bees generally nest separately** and play an important role in pollination by moving between flowers to collect pollen and nectar.
- The study found the bee **visiting 25 flowering plant species** belonging to 10 botanical families, including economically important crops such as mustard, buckwheat, coriander, beans, chilli and eggplant.

Ecological Role of Bees

- Honey **bees are vital to agriculture** because their pollination activities directly influence crop yields and quality.
- They are the **main pollinators of plants**.
- They contribute **significantly to maintaining biodiversity**. By pollinating a diverse range of wild plants, honey bees help sustain the balance of ecosystems.
- Bees are sensitive to environmental changes, making them **excellent bioindicators**.

Source: **TH**

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