

Antlions

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Antlions Latest News

Researchers recently discovered two new species of antlions named *Indophanes keralaensis* and *Indophanes sahyadriensis* belonging to the family *Myrmeleontidae* under the order *Neuroptera*.

About Antlions

- Antlions are a group of about **2,000 different species of insects**.
- They belong to a **family** called **Myrmeleontidae**.
- They are named for the **predatory nature of the larvae**, which commonly **trap ants and other small insects in pits dug into the ground**.
- **Adult antlions** are not as well known. They **live for a shorter time** than the larvae.
 - Adult antlions, sometimes **called antlion lacewings**, usually **fly at dusk or after dark**.
 - People sometimes **mistake them for dragonflies or damselflies**.
- **Habitat and Distribution:**
 - Antlions live **all over the world**.

- Most types are found in **warm, tropical places**.
- But **some species**, like the European *Euroleon nostras*, live **in colder areas**.
- They often live in **dry, sandy places**. This is where their **larvae can easily dig their traps**.
- However, **some larvae hide under leaves** or other bits of nature. They wait to ambush their prey there.
- They come in **various shapes and sizes**, with **larvae** typically measuring from a **few millimeters to several centimeters**, depending on the species.
 - Antlion **larvae have rounded bodies** with **long sickle-shaped jaws**.
 - The larvae are found at the **base of cone-shaped pits** in sandy areas.
 - **In North America**, these **larvae** are sometimes **called doodlebugs**. This is because of the **wiggly marks they leave in the sand**.
 - They usually **remain in the larval stage for one to two years**, depending on the species.
 - Once they pupate, they require up to one month to complete their development.
- Antlions are **harmless** and cause no damage to flowers, people, or structures.
- They are highly **beneficial and feed on ants and other insects** that fall into their traps.

Source: TH

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