

Odonata Species

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Odonata Species Latest News

Recently, the survey recorded 143 odonata species—76 dragonflies and 67 damselflies—of which 40 were endemic to the Western Ghats.

About Odonata Species

- Odonata, popularly known as **dragonflies and damselflies** are primarily associated with wetlands and surrounding landscape.
- The order Odonata is **one of the ancient groups of insects**.
- Odonata is an insect order consisting of three groups: **Anisoptera** (which includes dragonflies), **Zygoptera** (which includes damselflies), and **Anisozygoptera** (a relict group represented by only two living species).
- It is one of the **ancient orders of insects**.
- **Habitat:** They are found in a variety of habitats, such as **freshwater environments** like ponds, rivers, and lakes.
- **Distribution**

- They are globally **distributed, from the tropics**, where they are most numerous and varied, to the boreal forests **of Siberia and North America**.
- They are also found throughout the **Southern Hemisphere**, with the exception of Antarctica.

Features of Odonata Species

- These species consist of **minute antennae, extremely large eyes** (filling most of the head), two pairs of **transparent membranous wings** with many small veins, a long slender abdomen, and an aquatic larval stage (nymph).
- The abdomen is almost always longer than any of the wings.
- More than 80% of their brain is devoted to analyzing visual information.
- **Behaviour:** Large, active by day, and often strikingly coloured, they are usually seen flying near water.
- **Diet:** Adult odonates are voracious predators, as are the aquatic larvae.

Source: **TH**

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