

Darwin wasp

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About Darwin wasp:

- These **wasps are parasitoids**, meaning their larvae feed and develop on or within the bodies of other arthropods.
- They parasitize many insect groups, especially **Lepidoptera** (moths and butterflies), Coleoptera (beetles), and other **Hymenoptera** (ants, bees, and wasps).
- **Appearance:**
 - These wasps have a body formed of a head, thorax, and abdomen, and six legs.
 - They have a pair of large compound eyes on the side of the head and three ocelli (simple eyes) on the top of the head.
 - They have **longer antennae** with more segments, or sections.
- Adult wasps typically feed on **nectar and pollen**, and as solitary wasps, only come together to mate.
- **Breeding:** The females lay their eggs in or on the larvae or pupae (rarely eggs or adults) of the host. To attack wood-boring hosts deep inside woody plant tissues, some ichneumon wasp species **actually use their ovipositors** as a drill capable of penetrating solid wood.
- **Ecological Significance:** These tiny winged insects are critical to the ecosystem because they play an **important role in controlling the population of crop-damaging pests**, such as aphids and caterpillars,

without contaminating the environment

New species found in India

- Four new species are recently discovered from India namely
 - **Microleptes chiani** collected from **Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR)**, Tamil Nadu.
 - **Microleptes gowrishankari** collected from Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve, in Karnataka.
 - **Microleptes sandeshkaduri** collected from the Siang valley of Arunachal Pradesh.
 - **Microleptes tehriensis** is named after its collection site, Tehri in Uttarakhand.
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Q1: What is a Parasite?

It is an organism that lives on or in another organism, the host, and gets its food from or at the expense of its host.

News: **Researchers discover five new species of the Darwin wasp**

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