

Zographetus Mathewi

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Zographetus mathewi Latest News

A team of lepidopterists have identified a new butterfly species in the Western Ghats and named it as Zographetus mathewi.

About Zographetus mathewi

- It is a newly **described skipper butterfly** belonging to the **family HesperIIDae** and adds a new entry to the **genus ZographetusWatson**.
- It is the **15th species** in this oriental group and the **fifth to be recorded from India**.
- Its proposed common name is Sahyadri Spotted Flitter in reference to the Western Ghats, locally known as Sahyadri.
- **Habitat:** The species is endemic to the **low-elevation forests of Kerala**.

Features of Zographetus mathewi

- It is part of the **Zographetus satwa** species-group, characterised by unique features such as wing venation patterns and secondary sexual traits, **including swollen forewing veins** in males.
- It can be further distinguished by a basal hair tuft on the underside of the forewing, yellow-ochre scaling on the hindwing underside, and distinct genitalia structures in both males and females.
- Butterflies maintain the ecosystem by acting as **pollinators, prey, biological pest control**, induce genetic variation in plants, and enhance environmental beauty.
- These are valuable indicators of the environment, whose health can influence their presence, abundance, and diversity.

Source: TH

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