

New Wasp Species

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New Wasp Species Latest News

Recently, scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have announced the discovery of four new species of spider-egg parasitic wasps, all from the State of West Bengal.

About New Wasp Species

- The new species of parasitoid wasps belong to the **genus Idris** (Hymenoptera: Scelionidae).
- These tiny wasps — **Idris bianor**, **Idris furvus**, **Idris hyllus**, and **Idris longiscapus** — were collected from agroecosystems and semi-natural habitats across West Bengal.

Features of New Wasps

- These extremely **small microscopic wasps** belong to the **genus Idris Förster** and are known for laying their eggs inside spider egg sacs.
- These are primary **egg parasitoids of jumping spiders** (Salticidae).

- They exhibit an interesting behaviour pattern, the scientists noted that instead of just one wasp growing inside each spider egg sac, many baby wasps grow together and are called “**gregarious parasitism**”.
- **Significance of wasps:** Parasitoid wasps like Idris play a key role in **regulating spider populations** and maintaining **arthropod community balance**.

Key Facts about Parasitism

- It is a relationship **between two species of plants or animals** in which one benefits at the expense of the other, sometimes without killing the host organism.
- In **parasitism only one species benefits** (parasite and predator, respectively) and the interaction is detrimental to the other species (host and prey, respectively).
- Predation, parasitism and commensalism share a common characteristic- the interacting species live closely together.
- **Brood parasitism** in birds is a fascinating example of parasitism in which the parasitic bird lays its eggs in the nest of its host and lets the host incubate them.

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