

Salina Aurantiamaculata and Salina Pseudomontana

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Salina Aurantiamaculata and Salina Pseudomontana Latest News

Recently, scientists at the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) announced the discovery of two new Collembola, or springtails species — *Salina aurantiamaculata* and *Salina pseudomontana*.

About Salina Aurantiamaculata and Salina Pseudomontana

- *Salina aurantiamaculata* is named for its striking bright orange markings – an unusual pigment pattern among its peers.
- Its counterpart, *Salina pseudomontana*, looks very similar to the already known *Salina montana*.
- Both species belong to the **cosmopolitan “celebensis” group of Collembola**.
- Collembola improves **soil structure, aid nutrient cycling**, and serves as indicators of ecosystem health. Their role, though often overlooked, is fundamental for the ecosystem.”
- The last time a *Salina* species was recorded in India was in 1979. After more than four decades, these two new additions bring the **country’s tally to 17 species**.

What are Collembola Springtails?

- These are among the **oldest land-dwelling hexapods on Earth**, dating back hundreds of millions of years.
- **Habitat:** They are found in leaf litter, decaying wood, and soil, they thrive quietly in habitats most of us overlook.
- **Significance:** Their abundance and sensitivity make them invaluable in **monitoring pollution, climate change, and agricultural sustainability**.

Source: **IE**

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