

Crocothemis erythraea

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Crocothemis erythraea Latest News

Recently, odonatologists have reconfirmed the presence of the elusive dragonfly species, *Crocothemis erythraea*, in the high-elevation regions of the southern Western Ghats.

About *Crocothemis erythraea*

- It is a species of **dragonfly in the family Libellulidae**.
- Its common names include **broad scarlet, common scarlet-darter, and scarlet darter**.
- The genus *Crocothemis* in India includes two known species—***C. servilia* and *C. erythraea***. While *C. servilia* is common across lowland areas, *C. erythraea* is known from **high-elevation habitats in parts of Europe and Asia, including the Himalayas**.
- The molecular analysis showed that the high-elevation specimens from the Western Ghats match *C. erythraea* found in **the Himalayas**.
- **Habitat:** The study confirmed that the **Western Ghats** hosts both the species, *C. erythraea*, which is restricted to cool, high-elevation habitats (>550 m), while *C. servilia* is common in lowland habitats (<600

m).

- The researchers explain that *C. erythraea* **colonised southern India during the Pleistocene Ice Age**, when cooler climatic conditions allowed temperate fauna to extend their range southward.
- As the climate warmed, these populations became stranded in montane locations like the Sholas and grasslands of Munnar and Parambikulam, where they survived in isolation.

Source: TH

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