

Katydids

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Katydids Latest News

Researchers recently identified three previously unknown species of meadow katydids, or long-horned grasshoppers, named *Conocephalus usmanii*, *Conocephalus nagariensis*, and *Conocephalus ganderbali*, in Jammu and Kashmir.

About Katydids

- **Found on every continent except Antarctica**, Katydids are a family of primarily **nocturnal insects**.
- There are more than 8,000 known species of Katydid, all of which belong to the family Tettigoniidae.
- **Grasshoppers, locusts, crickets, and katydids** belong to a **group of insects known as orthopterans** (meaning 'straight wings').
- They **closely resemble grasshoppers** and used to go by the name **long-horned grasshoppers**.
- However, in reality, they are **more closely related to crickets**, hence their other **common name, the bush cricket**.

Katyids Features

- Katyids vary greatly in size depending on the species. That said, most range between 0.2 inches to 5.1 inches long.
- The **body generally resembles** that of **grasshoppers**, but katyids have **long, threadlike antennae instead of the grasshoppers' short antennae**.
- While **most Katyids appear bright green or mimic the appearance of leaves**, they come in a **variety of colors, ranging from pink to yellow**.
- Like grasshoppers and crickets, katyids **make noise by rubbing body parts together** — in their case, by moving a leg against a wing and producing a sound that resembles their name.
- They are famous for their ability to **blend into their surroundings**.
- Katyids have feet with four segments.
- The **lifespan** of a katydid is **about a year**.
- They are **mostly herbivores**, feeding on leaves, flowers, and fruit, but some eat small insects.

Key Facts about Meadow Katyids

- The meadow katyids are a group of about 20 species of **slender, small-to medium-sized katyids** found in **grassy meadows near lakes and ponds**.
- Genus: Orchelimum
- **When disturbed, they enter the water, cling to underwater plants**, and can **remain submerged for several minutes**.
- Abundant and widespread, meadow katyids have **large orange eyes** and a **body that is brown on top and green on the bottom**.
- They **produce a song**, consisting of clicks and buzzes, during the day or at night.

Conocephalus Nagariensis

- Found in the Budgam district, it is distinguished by its spindle-shaped appendages (cerci) and a stridulatory file containing exactly 34 teeth.
- It is dedicated to Dr. Rajendra Nagar, a researcher credited with discovering several other species of katyids across the country, and bears his name.

Conocephalus Ganderbali

- Discovered in the Ganderbal region, it is notably small and slender.
- It has a musical file of only 28 teeth and a unique V-shaped incision on its underbelly.
- Its name is derived from the Ganderbal district in Kashmir, the specific locality where the researchers first collected the specimens.

Conocephalus Usmanii

- It features a flat, elongated plate on its abdomen and a musical file with 36 teeth.

- It was named in honour of Professor Mohd Kamil Usmani, a scholar who has made significant contributions to the study of Orthoptera (the group of insects including grasshoppers and katydids) in India.

Source: RM

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