

Indiaphonte Bijoyi

January 19, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



Indiaphonte Bijoyi Latest News

Recently, a microscopic crustacean was discovered in Kavaratti which has been named Indiaphonte bijoyi, with the generic name Indiaphonte.

About Indiaphonte Bijoyi

- It is a **tiny crustacean** discovered from the Kavaratti lagoon in the **Lakshadweep islands**.
- It belongs to the family **Laophontidae within the Copepoda class**.
- **Habitat:** It lives in **sediments in aquatic environments**.

Characteristics of Indiaphonte Bijoyi

- It has a **semi-cylindrical, depressed body** that is wider in the middle and tapering towards the posterior.
- It also has **antennae-like appendages** at the front.
- The **females are slightly larger** than the males.
- It is **essentially Meiofauna**, tiny invertebrate animals **less than 1 millimetre in size**.

Key Facts about Laophontidae

- It is the most diverse family with 350 species across 77 genera within the **order Harpacticoida**.
- They are microscopic in size and play a vital role in **maintaining the health of marine and freshwater ecosystems**.
- **Ecological Role**
 - They are sensitive to pollution, oil spills, heavy metals, and climate change and are considered **reliable bio-indicators of environmental change**.
 - They are **widely used in aquaculture and fisheries**, especially as live feed for fish larvae.
 - **They produce and convert omega-3 fatty acids** such as **Eicosapentaenoic Acid (EPA)** and **Docosahexaenoic Acid (DHA)** that are essential for the growth of fish and shellfish and contribute significantly to human nutritional security.

Source: **TH**

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