

Contarinia icardiflores

February 24, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



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CONTARINIA ICARDIFLORES

Contarinia icardiflores Latest News

Scientists from the ICAR-Directorate of Floricultural Research (ICAR-DFR), Pune, recently discovered a new species of blossom midge, *Contarinia icardiflores* sp. nov.

About *Contarinia icardiflores*

- It is a **new species of blossom midge**.
 - Blossom midges of the genus *Contarinia* are **small insects** known to be serious **pests of ornamental and food crops** worldwide.
 - The **larvae feed inside flower buds or blossoms**, often causing severe yield loss in agricultural and horticultural crops.
- **C. icardiflores** has been **named in honour of ICAR-DFR**, acknowledging the institute's contributions to floriculture research.
- It was found causing significant **economic losses in jasmine cultivation**, especially in some parts of **Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka**.

- The **pest** — about 1.5 to 2 mm in size – **completes its life cycle in 16 to 21.**
- Although *C. icardiflores* **closely resembles *C. maculipennis*** — the **only other midge known to attack jasmine** — it is **genetically distinct.**
- The findings provide essential biological insights and lay the groundwork for developing targeted and eco-friendly pest management strategies for jasmine farmers in the country.

Source: ICAR

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/contarinia-icardiflores/>

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