

New Moth Species

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New Moth Species Latest News

Zoological Survey of India scientists recently discovered two new lichen moth species—*Caulocera hollowayi* and *Asura buxa*—in the eastern Himalayas.

About *Caulocera hollowayi* and *Asura buxa*

- They are two **new lichen moth species** discovered from the **eastern Himalayas**.
- ***Caulocera hollowayi*** was identified from specimens collected near **Golitar in Sikkim**.
 - Researchers distinguished this species through its **unique wing patterns, colour bands, and specific microscopic body features** that differentiate it from previously known moths of the same genus.
- ***Asura buxa***, was discovered from specimens collected at **Panijhora in West Bengal**.
 - Scientists noted that the moth possesses **distinctive colour patterns on its wings** along with unique internal anatomical characteristics that confirmed it as a new species.

- **Lichen moths** play an important **ecological role** because their **caterpillars feed on lichens, organisms** that are **highly sensitive to environmental pollution**.
- Because **lichens are affected by polluted air**, the **presence or absence of these moths** can **help scientists monitor air quality and environmental health**, particularly in fragile mountain ecosystems like the Indian Himalayas.

Source: DEVD

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