

New Species of Jumping Spiders

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Jumping Spiders Latest News

A team of scientists recently discovered two new species of jumping spiders named *Mogrus shushka* and *Mogrus pune*, thriving in the country's drylands and urban green spaces.

About *Mogrus shushka* and *Mogrus pune*

- These are two newly discovered **arachnids** belonging to the **genus *Mogrus***, a group of **medium-sized jumping spiders typically found** in the **arid regions of Africa, Europe, and Asia**.
- ***Mogrus shushka*:**
 - It was identified in **Desert National Park, Rajasthan**, a region better known for its sand dunes and iconic desert wildlife.
 - **Derived from the Sanskrit word *shushka* for 'dry,'** the name reflects the extreme, **arid conditions in which the spider thrives**.
 - It is highly **adapted to intense heat, low humidity, and sandy terrain**, conditions that define the Thar desert.

- **Males** of *M. shushka* stand out from their closest relative, *M. cognatus*, by having a **distinct triangular-shaped bump on their mating appendage**, rather than a thumb-shaped one.
- The **females** feature a **deep, semi-circular depression on their underside** with short, closely spaced internal ducts.
- **Mogrus pune:**
 - It was discovered in the **Alfa Laval Biodiversity Park in Maharashtra**. It was named after the city of Pune.
 - **Male** *M. pune* can be easily distinguished by a **heart-shaped bump on its reproductive organ** and uniquely curved structures, while the **female** possesses a **distinctively wide and membranous central depression**.

Source: RM

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