

# New spider and millipede species discovered at Wayanad sanctuary

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kozhikode:** Researchers have discovered a new species of jumping spider at the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS). The new species has been named 'Hindumanes wayanadensis' and it comes under the family Salticidae (jumping spiders).

The discovery was made by researchers from Centre for Animal Taxonomy and Ecology (CATE) at Christ College in Irinjalakuda. Male spider of the species are orange in colour while the females are light green coloured.

"They can be mistaken for two separate species. But there is longitudinal black stripe on the dorsal surface of abdomen in the male spider and their elongated legs have long black li-



Male spider of the species are orange in colour while the females are light green in colour. They are mostly seen during the monsoon season at the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary



nes. It is very difficult to detect the female spider in green foliage due to their camouflaged appearance," said Sudhikumar A V, principal investigator and Head of CATE, who led the study.

The habitat of the spider

was found to be the riparian scrub jungles of the sanctuary. The spider feeds on small insects in the foliage and is mostly seen during the monsoon season.

Sudhikumar said that the first part of the scienti-

fic name 'Hindumanes' was given as the genus was present only in Hindustan. A close relative of this genus is present in South America. The study was funded by department of science and technology, Government of India. Research scholars Sudhin P P, Nafin K S and Pojoja Anilkumar took part in the study.

The discovery has been published in the latest issue of Zootaxa, an international scientific journal of natural history.

The same team of researchers has also discovered a new species of millipede from the wildlife sanctuary. The species is named *Anoplodesmus wayanadensis* and the millipedes' hide under soil during summer season and come out only during monsoon season.