



Platygomphus Benritarum

Why in News?

Recently, a new species of dragonfly '*Platygomphus benritarum*' discovered in Assam has been named after two women for their pioneering work in the northeast.

- It has been named after Monisha Behal, a founder member of Northeast Network (NEN) and Rita Banerji, founder of Green Hub.

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What are the Key Points?

- The species, a single male, was found by two researchers in June 2020 near the banks of the Brahmaputra in Assam.
- The male observed appeared to have freshly emerged judging by its shiny wings and abdomen.
- It has **turquoise blue eyes and dark brown face** covered with hair on the sides, was found resting on a large tree around 5-6 metres from the banks of Brahmaputra.
- The habitat along the banks is dominated by grasses, sparse trees, paddy fields and marshlands, along with some forest patches and tree plantations.
- Dragonflies and damselflies belong to the order **Odonata of insects**.
 - The order Odonata ("toothed ones") includes **some of the most ancient and beautiful insects that ever roamed Earth**, as well as some of the largest flying invertebrates ever to have lived.
 - Odonata consists of three groups: Anisoptera (which includes dragonflies), Zygoptera (which includes damselflies), and Anisozygoptera (a relict group represented by only two living species).

What are Dragonflies?

- **About:**

- It is an aerial predator insect most commonly found near freshwater habitats throughout most of the world.
- Their distinctive colors make them look beautiful. This makes them valuable subjects for research on insect behavior, both for ecology and art.
- **Habitat:**
 - Most species of dragonflies live in the tropics and particularly in the rainforests.
- **Significance:**
 - Dragonflies act as important bio-indicators of the ecological health of an area. As they feed on mosquitoes and other insects that are vectors to life-threatening diseases like Malaria and Dengue.
- **Threats:**
 - The rapid destruction of their habitat poses a direct threat to their survival making their conservation urgent.

[Source: HT](#)

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