



Money Spider, Ant-Mimicking Spider Discovered

Why in News?

Money spiders, commonly found in European meadows, have been reported for the **first time in the country from the Muthanga range of the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary**.

- Researchers from Christ College (Kerala) have also discovered **ant-mimicking spiders**, belonging to the **group of jumping spiders**, from the **Mananthavady range**.

Key Points

- **About Money Spider:**



- Money Spider **belongs to the family of dwarf spiders (*Linyphiidae*)** under the **genus *Prosoponoides***.
 - Only six species of spiders belonging to this genus have been identified from across the world so far.
- It has been **given the name *Prosoponoides biflectogynus***.
- The male and the female money spiders are typically 3 mm and 4 mm long respectively.
- Both sexes are dark brown and have irregular silver patches and black spots on the elliptical abdomen.
- There are numerous fine black spines on their olive-green legs.
- Eight dark eyes are arranged in two rows.
- Females build triangular webs in between dry tree twigs and feed on small insects, while males prefer to hide beneath dry leaves.
- Two or more male spiders can be found in the web of a single female.
- **About Ant-mimicking Spiders:**
 - The ant-mimicking spider has been named ***Toxeus alboclavus***.

- They belong to the **family of Salticidae**.
- The male and the female spiders of this species grow up to 4 mm and 6 mm long respectively.



- A pair of white stripes on the dark brown abdomen of females makes them distinct from other spiders of this group (jumping spiders).
- The male of the species is characterized by a brown cephalic region and black thorax with white hairs.
- The forward-projecting fangs have a characteristic shape of an antler.
- Long spines are present on the base of each leg.

Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary

- Located in Kerala, Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS) is an **integral part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve**. It was established in 1973.
 - Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve was the first from India to be included in the UNESCO designated World Network of Biosphere Reserves (designated in 2012).
 - Other wildlife parks within the Reserve are: [Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary](#), [Bandipur National Park](#), [Nagarhole National Park](#), [Mukurthi National Park](#) and [Silent Valley](#).
- Spread over 344.44 sq km, Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary is **contiguous to the tiger reserves of Nagarhole and Bandipur of Karnataka and Mudumalai of Tamil Nadu**.
- **Kabini river** (a tributary of [Cauvery river](#)) flows through the sanctuary.
- The **forest types** include South Indian Moist Deciduous forests, West coast semi-evergreen forests and plantations of teak, eucalyptus and Grewelia.
- Elephant, Gaur, Tiger, Panther, Sambar, Spotted deer, Barking deer, Wild boar, Sloth bear, Nilgiri langur, Bonnet macaque, Common langur, Wild dog, common otter, Malabar giant squirrel etc are the major mammals.



[Source: TH](#)

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