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### Black thrips

The dreaded black thrips recently attacked the chilli crop-growing regions of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Haryana.

- It is an invasive pest species belonging to the order Thysanoptera.
- **Scientific Name** - Thrips parvispinus.
- It was 1<sup>st</sup> reported in India in 2015 on papaya in Karnataka.
- **Unique feature** - Wings are long and narrow, with fringe-like edges.
- **Size** - Typically about 1-4 mm long.



- **Feeds on** - It is a polyphagous species and an invasive sucking pest infesting beans, eggplant, papaya, chilli, pepper, potato, shallot and strawberry.

*Polyphagous species are those that feed on or utilize many different types of food.*

- Found feeding on agriculture, horticulture and ornamental crops.
- **Habitat** - It is a cosmopolitan pest species which have been reported from Thailand, Australia and Europe.
- **Distribution** - France, Greece, Hawaii, Mauritius, Reunion, Spain, Tanzania, Netherlands, besides India and worldwide.
- It widely distributed across Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha and Tamil Nadu.
- **Nature of Damage** - Adults mainly colonize on flowers and underside of leaves whereas larvae suck sap from undersurface of the leaves.

- It harm the crops indirectly by transmitting plant viruses.
- Its infestation increased during heavy rainfall of North East monsoon in contrast to other thrips species.
- The infestation is more in the black soil regions.
- It was reported in chilli growing areas of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka for the first time in Rabi 2021- 22.
- **Preventive sprays** - Use of bioagents and bio consortia to deal with the pest.

*Crop Protection Business had reported that around 60-70% of the cropped area has been infested with black thrips in Ballari, Karnataka.*

## References

1. [The Hindu Business| Black thrips](#)
2. [SABC| Black thrips](#)

## Sjögren's Disease

*Recently, the clinical immunologist offered an insight into the conditions prevalence and presentation of the Sjögren's Disease.*

- It is a ***chronic long-lasting autoimmune disorder.***

*Autoimmune diseases happen when the immune system mistakenly damages the body instead of protecting it.*

- The immune system attacks the glands that make moisture such as your nose, throat, and skin.
- It also affect other parts of the body, including your joints, lungs, kidneys, blood vessels, digestive organs, and nerves.
- It is also known as ***Sjögren's and Sjögren's syndrome.***
- **Symptoms** - It have cycles of mild and then severe symptoms.
- **2 main symptoms**
  - **Dry eyes** - Burn or itch or feel like sand in the eyes, the dryness causes blurry vision or sensitivity to bright light, and get irritated, itchy eyelids due to inflammation.
  - **Dry mouth** - Feel chalky, have trouble swallowing, speaking, and tasting, and develop mouth infections such as candidiasis.
- **Other symptoms** - Fatigue, Joint pain, Dry skin, Dry nasal passages and throat, dry cough, Skin rashes, Muscle aches, Vaginal dryness.
- **Causes** - Its inflammation damages the glands, limiting their production of the fluids that normally keep the eyes and mouth moist.
- It also damages other organs and tissues and causing a range of other symptoms.

- **Risk factors**

- **Age** - It is usually diagnosed in people older than 40.
  - **Sex** - It predominantly affects women.
  - **Rheumatic disease** - It's common for people who have this syndrome to also have a rheumatic disease such as rheumatoid arthritis or lupus.
- **Treatment** - There is ***no cure*** for this syndrome.
  - It can be relieved depending on which parts of the body are affected.

## References

1. [The Hindu| Sjögren's Disease](#)
2. [NIAMS| Sjögren's Disease](#)
3. [Medlineplus| Sjögren's Disease](#)

## Design Law Treaty (DLT)

*India has recently signed the Final Act of the Riyadh Design Law Treaty almost two decades of extensive negotiations.*

- **Design Law Treaty (DLT)** - To harmonize procedures and simplify registration processes of ***industrial designs*** in different countries.
- **Adopted by** - World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).
  - All 193 contracting parties of the WIPO have enforced the treaty.
- **Goal** - To ensure the streamlined design protection accessible to all stakeholders, with particular emphasis on
  - Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs),
  - Startups and
  - Independent designers.
- **Features** - It work towards implementing electronic industrial design systems and facilitating the electronic exchange of priority documents.
- **Benefits** - Its benefiting design applicants, including
  - Relaxed time limits,
  - Reinstatement of lost rights,
  - Option to correct or add priority claims,
  - Simplified procedures for recording assignments and licenses,
  - Option to file multiple designs in a single application.
- These changes provide greater flexibility for design applicants.
- It reduces administrative burdens, and promoting global creativity in design.
- It empower startups and SMEs by boosting their competitiveness and supporting market growth.
- **India's role** - It reaffirms its commitment to fostering inclusive growth and ensuring equitable access to intellectual property protection.
- It combined with initiatives like the Startup India program and the Startups Intellectual Property Protection (SIPP) scheme.

- The policy integrates design protection with traditional knowledge and cultural expressions.

*India has tripled the domestic filings increasing by 120% in the last 2 years and design applications grew by 25% last year.*

### World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

- It is the United Nations specialized agency that serves the world's innovators and creators, to protect and promote their intellectual property (IP).
- **Established on** - 14 July 1967.
- **Headquarters** - Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Member states** - 193.
- All member states of the UN are *not obliged, to become members* of this specialized agency.

### References

1. [PIB| Design Law Treaty \(DLT\)](#)
2. [WIPO| Design Law Treaty \(DLT\)](#)

### Red-Breasted Flycatcher

*Recently, the Red-Breasted Flycatcher bird migrated from Eastern Europe to Ameenpur Lake in Hyderabad.*

- **Scientific name** - Ficedula parva.
- **Family** - Muscicapidae.
- It is a *small bird* in the Old World flycatcher family.
- This is a ***scarce migrant*** from central and eastern Europe, that is commoner in autumn than spring.
- **Size** - It measures 12 cm.
- **Appearance**
  - **Males** - Brownish on top, faces are bluish-grey, chin and throat are orangish, underparts are otherwise buffish white, and eye is dark and big, and has a pale ring around it.
  - Distinctiveness is the ***plumage of male*** that shows a clear patch of bright colour from the neck below.
  - **Females** - Brown overall on back and whitish overall underneath on the sides of breast and flushed with brownish buff.



- **Unique Feature** - Whitesides to their blackish tail and their tendency to frequently 'cock' it.
- **Song** - Its song is a series of bland and repetitive but sweet whistles, often with a few fuzzy notes.
- **Call** - It frequently calls while flicking its tail, possibly to defend winter territories from conspecifics. It is detected by a rattling sound like "trrrrr".
- **Distribution** - A migratory bird escapes from the harsh winter and enjoys the moderate temperatures in South Asia.
- Found in ***peninsular India*** during the winter season from October to March.
- **Diet** - Feed mostly on invertebrates such as flies, beetles, ants and spiders.
- **Breeding** - West of Central Asia and winters largely in the Indian Subcontinent except in the northeastern part.
- **Conservation Status**
  - IUCN - Least Concern.
- **Other Similar Species**
  - Taiga Flycatcher.
  - Kashmir Flycatcher.

## References

1. [The Hindu| Red-Breasted Flycatcher](#)
2. [Bird Count India| Red-Breasted Flycatcher](#)