



Mysterious Frog

What is the new mystery frog species?

- Scientists have confirmed that a new frog species exists in the Western Ghats, India.
- They have called it 'Mysticellus', which means mysterious in Latin.

Illustration: The new species of frog found in India.

New Frog Species Discovered

Scientists in India have **confirmed** that a new frog species has been discovered. It was found in a puddle close to a road.

The scientists called it 'Mysticellus franki'. Mysticellus means mysterious in Latin and 'franki' is named after a scientist called Franky Bossuyt.

It's mysterious because it's only seen during its breeding season. It then seems to disappear.

Scientists don't know where it goes. The mysterious frog only breeds for four days in the **monsoon** season in India.

Two researchers, Sonali Garg and SD Biju, spent three years looking for it.

Sonali Garg first found tadpoles of the new frog species in 2013. She then had to go on further searches to find the adult frogs.

She eventually found a group of 200 adults from the frog species in 2015.

They then tested the **DNA** of the frog. DNA is a unique substance found in the cells of every animal. Each species has a different DNA. Scientists had to look at the frog's DNA to be sure that it was a new species.

The new frog was found in an area called the Western Ghats. It's home to 325 threatened species and other new species of frogs have been found there.

In 2016, scientists discovered a tadpole that burrows in the sand. They also found a tree frog that **biologists** thought had been extinct for a century.

Sonali Garg says that this news is very exciting. She said that this news proves that the scientists' work in the Western Ghats is "far from complete".

Glossary

confirmed	To have said that something is true.
monsoon	A windy season that brings rain in south-east Asia between May and September.
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid.
biologists	Scientists who study animals and plants.