



## New Frog Species Discovered in Southern India

### 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.

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

The tiny frog species is named 'Mysticellus franki'. Mysticellus is Latin for mysterious and 'franki' is named after a scientist called Franky Bossuyt.

It's mysterious because it is only seen during its breeding season before it then disappears.

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

Two researchers, Sonali Garg and SD Biju, had been looking for the new species for three years.

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. Sonali Garg found them in grasslands after there had been heavy rain.

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. This is a mountain range that stretches from the Indian city of Mumbai to the southern tip of India.

Many new species of frog have been found in



Illustration: The new frog species found in India.

the Western Ghats in recent years. It's home to 325 threatened species.

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

In the following year, they then found four new species in the same region.

Sonali Garg says that this news is very exciting. She said that this news proves that the discovery of new species in the Western Ghats is "far from complete".

### Glossary

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