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ARTHROPODA: ARACHNIDA: OPILIONES, Sundevall, 1833

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FAUNA OF INDIA CHECKLIST



ARTHROPODA: ARACHNIDA: OPILIONES, Sundevall, 1833

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Introduction: Opiliones, commonly known as harvestmen or daddy longlegs, are found worldwide except in mainland Antarctica (Kury *et al.*, 2024a). They have long slender legs and segmented abdomen connected with the cephalothorax across the whole breadth (appearing as a single oval structure), unlike spiders (Pinto-da-Rocha *et al.*, 2007). A unique feature of Opiliones is their prosomal gland (also called scent gland or repugnatorial gland), located on the sides of the cephalothorax. This gland secretes defensive chemicals to deter predators (Machado *et al.*, 2005). Another distinguishing trait is the stomotheca, a specialized preoral structure that helps in external digestion by allowing them to ingest solid food. Opiliones are known for autotomy, the ability to shed legs to escape predators, and

some species exhibit gregarious behaviour, forming large aggregations (Mukherjee *et al.*, 2010). They are very ancient in origin. A recent molecular study on origin of Opiliones has revealed that the earliest members of this order had emerged about 473 million years ago (Mya), during the Ordovician Period of Palaeozoic Era (Sharma & Giribet, 2014).

Global diversity: Globally, the order Opiliones encompasses 6,760 species of harvestmen under 1,704 genera and are placed under 71 families. However, 61 fossil species have also been described (Kury *et al.*, 2024b).

Diversity in India: 239 species belonging to 107 genera under 09 families have been reported so far from India.

Diversity in States

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. of Species	No. of Endemic Species
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	21	11
3	Assam	8	5
4	Bihar	3	2
5	Chhattisgarh	0	0
6	Gujarat	0	0
7	Goa	1	1
8	Haryana	0	0



Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. of Species	No. of Endemic Species
9	Himachal Pradesh	10	9
10	Jharkhand	0	0
11	Karnataka	10	10
12	Kerala	21	21
13	Madhya Pradesh	0	0
14	Maharashtra	23	23
15	Manipur	0	0
16	Meghalaya	9	8
17	Mizoram	0	0
18	Nagaland	0	0
19	Odisha	11	7
20	Punjab	1	1
21	Rajasthan	0	0
22	Sikkim	12	5
23	Tamil Nadu	71	70
24	Telangana	0	0
25	Tripura	0	0
26	Uttar Pradesh	4	4
27	Uttarakhand	10	8
28	West Bengal	46	27
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	6	5
30	Chandigarh	0	0
31	Dadra Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu	0	0
32	Delhi	0	0
33	Jammu & Kashmir	1	0
34	Ladakh	1	0
35	Lakshadweep	0	0
36	Puducherry	0	0
37	State Unknown	4	4
	INDIA Total	239	198

Endemism: Among the 239 species known from the country, 198 are endemic to India.

Habitat: Daddy longlegs are commonly found near marshy places, under the stones and under the barks of trees. Sometimes, they can be seen in leaf litter, even in caves. They are also often found clinging to the walls, tree trunks, crevices of caves, etc.

Ecological Significance: Harvestmen are omnivorous in nature. Their food ranges from plant materials to small insects. Some daddy longlegs feed upon dead organisms, fecal products and decaying materials. They also serve as prey to other arachnids like spiders and scorpions.

Human Significance: Daddy longlegs are



absolutely harmless to humans. They do not possess any kind of venom gland and their cheliceral claws are very small and unable to pierce human skin.

Threatened species: None of the species is included in the list of threatened species as per IUCN.

Protected Species as per WPA (2022): None of the species is considered as protected species as per WPA (2022).

Species under CITES: None of the species is considered under CITES.

Invasive alien species: None of the species is treated as invasive alien species.

Gap areas: The harvestman fauna of the Indian subcontinent is very poorly studied (Martens *et al.*, 2023). Detailed study of these arachnids is required to understand their diversity and role in the ecosystem.

Systematic list of Opiliones of India (*Endemic species marked with **)

Order Opiliones Sundevall, 1833

Family Assamiidae Sørensen, 1884

1. *Aboriscus aborensis* (Roewer, 1913) *
2. *Aboriscus longipes* (Roewer, 1913) *
3. *Aboriscus singularis* (Roewer, 1912)
4. *Anaimalus gibbulus* Roewer, 1929 *
5. *Anassamia rufa* (Roewer, 1927) *
6. *Assamia gravellyi* Roewer, 1911
7. *Assamia westermanni* Sørensen, 1884 *
8. *Attakattius spinifrons* Roewer, 1929 *
9. *Balnissa parva* Roewer, 1935 *
10. *Brysmia atra* Roewer, 1935 *
11. *Bundelkhandia cavernicola* Turk, 1945 *
12. *Calloristus cavernarum* Turk, 1945 *
13. *Calloristus granipes* Roewer, 1935 *
14. *Dodabetta conigera* Roewer, 1929 *
15. *Drugius parvus* Roewer, 1929 *
16. *Eupygoplus armatus* Roewer, 1915 *
17. *Eupygoplus gracilis* Roewer, 1927
18. *Gudalura biseriata* Roewer, 1927 *
19. *Harpenma denticulata* Roewer, 1935 *
20. *Indosidama moila* Turk, 1945 *
21. *Kavalaica atroscutata* Roewer, 1927 *
22. *Kodaika escheri* Roewer, 1929 *
23. *Koyna spinulata* Roewer, 1915 *
24. *Kukkala trispinifrons* Roewer, 1929 *
25. *Lepchana spinipalpis* Roewer, 1927 *
26. *Metassamia bituberculata* (Roewer, 1912) *
27. *Metassamia furcidens* Roewer, 1935 *
28. *Metassamia reticulata* (Simon, 1888)
29. *Metassamia septemdentata* Roewer, 1923 *
30. *Metassamia soerensenii* (Thorell, 1889)
31. *Metassamia spinifrons* (Roewer, 1915) *
32. *Metassamia variata* Sørensen, 1932 *
33. *Mormuga uncifrons* Roewer, 1927 *



34. *Mudumalus partialis* Roewer, 1929 *
35. *Mysorea brevipes* Roewer, 1935 *
36. *Neassamia aborensis* (Roewer, 1913)
37. *Nilgirus scaber* Roewer, 1915 *
38. *Nothippus affinis* Loman, 1892
39. *Opcochina carli* Roewer, 1929 *
40. *Opcochina gravellyi* Roewer, 1927 *
41. *Oppalnia brevipes* Roewer, 1927 *
42. *Panchganius blatteri* Roewer, 1935 *
43. *Parassamia sexdentata* (Thorell, 1889)
44. *Pashokia laeviscutum* Roewer, 1927 *
45. *Phalcochina albistriata* Roewer, 1927 *
46. *Propygoplus maculatus* (Roewer, 1912) *
47. *Puria dorsalis* (Roewer, 1915) *
48. *Pygoplus obscurus* Thorell, 1889
49. *Pygoplus trifasciatus* Thorell, 1889
50. *Pykara coxalis* Roewer, 1929 *
51. *Scabrobunus filipes* Roewer, 1912 *
52. *Senarba acanthicoxa* Roewer, 1927 *
53. *Senarba rudicoxa* Roewer, 1927 *
54. *Sijucavernicus kempi* Roewer, 1923 *
55. *Sonoga scutata* Roewer, 1935 *
56. *Trionychiperna carli* Roewer, 1929 *
57. *Trionyxana gracilipes* Roewer, 1927 *
58. *Trionyxella granulata* Roewer, 1935 *
59. *Typestus sulcatus* Roewer, 1935 *
60. *Valpara albitarsis* Roewer, 1929 *
61. *Zirolana lutea* Roewer, 1940 *

Family Biantidae Thorell, 1889

62. *Biantes atroluteus* Roewer, 1915 *
63. *Biantes carli* Roewer, 1929 *
64. *Biantes conspersus* Roewer, 1927 *
65. *Biantes croceus* (Roewer, 1927) *
66. *Biantes quadrituberculatus* Roewer, 1929 *
67. *Hinzuanus indicus* (Roewer, 1915) *

Family Epedanidae Sørensen, 1886

68. *Metathyreotus aborensis* Roewer, 1913
69. *Metathyreotus kempi* Roewer, 1913 *

Family Phalangiidae Latreille, 1802

70. *Egaenus kashmiricus* Caporiatto, 1935
71. *Himachalus pradeshicus* Martens, Julka & Devi, 2023 *
72. *Homolophus bastawadei* Starega, 2013 *
73. *Homolophus nepalicus* (Roewer, 1912)
74. *Homolophus potanini* (Simon, 1895)
75. *Homolophus tibetanus* (Roewer, 1911)

Family Podoctidae Roewer, 1912

76. *Bistota horrida* Roewer, 1927 *
77. *Eupodotis indicus* (Hirst, 1911) *
78. *Pumbaraius kempi* Roewer, 1927 *



79. *Pumbaraius malabarensis* Roewer, 1949 *
80. *Tandikudius rugosus* Roewer, 1929 *
81. *Vandaravua carli* Roewer, 1929 *

Family Sabaconidae Dresco, 1970

82. *Sabacon nishikawai* Martens, 2015
83. *Sabacon simbuakhola* Martens, 2015

Family Sandokanidae Özdikmen & Kury, 2007

84. *Gnomulus aborensis* (Roewer, 1913) *
85. *Gnomulus roingii* Bastawade, 2006 *

Family Sclerosomatidae Simon, 1879

86. *Akalpia oblonga* Roewer, 1915 *
87. *Antigrella orissana* Roewer, 1954 *
88. *Aurivilliola bispinifera* Roewer, 1929 *
89. *Aurivilliola femoralis* Roewer, 1955 *
90. *Aurivilliola nigripalpis* Roewer, 1929 *
91. *Aurivilliola palpalis* Roewer, 1915 *
92. *Bastia lineata* Roewer, 1910 *
93. *Bonthainia graveleyi* (Roewer, 1929) *
94. *Carmichaelus maculatus* Roewer, 1929 *
95. *Ceratobunellus brevipes* (With, 1903) *
96. *Ceratobunellus calcuttensis* (With, 1903) *
97. *Ceratobunus annulatus* Thorell, 1889 *
98. *Ceratobunus cupreus* Roewer, 1912 *
99. *Ceratobunus richteri* Roewer, 1955 *
100. *Ceratobunus vigilans* (With, 1903) *
101. *Coonoora biceratops* Roewer, 1929 *
102. *Dentobunus dentatus* (With, 1903) *
103. *Dentobunus imperator* (With, 1903) *
104. *Diangathia bovisfrons* Roewer, 1955
105. *Euceratobunus pulcher* (With, 1903) *
106. *Eugagrella abdominalis* Roewer, 1954 *
107. *Eugagrella barnesi* Roewer, 1929 *
108. *Eugagrella carli* Roewer, 1929 *
109. *Eugagrella malabarica* Roewer, 1954 *
110. *Eugagrella palnica* Roewer, 1929 *
111. *Eusclera indica* Turk, 1948 *
112. *Euzaleptus minutus* (With, 1903)
113. *Euzaleptus muticus* Roewer, 1929 *
114. *Gagrella andamana* Roewer, 1929 *
115. *Gagrella annulatipes* Roewer, 1912 *
116. *Gagrella armillata* Thorell, 1889
117. *Gagrella atra* (Roewer, 1929) *
118. *Gagrella aurantiaca* (Roewer, 1929) *
119. *Gagrella bella* Roewer, 1954 *
120. *Gagrella bengalica* Roewer, 1954 *
121. *Gagrella bicolorispina* Roewer, 1954 *
122. *Gagrella bispinosa* With, 1903
123. *Gagrella brunnea* Roewer, 1954 *
124. *Gagrella cyanatra* Roewer, 1954 *
125. *Gagrella gracilis* (Roewer, 1910)



126. *Gagrella granulata* (Roewer, 1954) *
127. *Gagrella hirta* With, 1903
128. *Gagrella kanaria* (Roewer, 1929) *
129. *Gagrella lepida lepida* Thorell, 1889
130. *Gagrella lindbergi* Roewer, 1959 *
131. *Gagrella maindroni* Simon, 1897 *
132. *Gagrella malabarica* Roewer, 1954 *
133. *Gagrella marginata* Roewer, 1954 *
134. *Gagrella metallica* Roewer, 1929 *
135. *Gagrella minuta* Roewer, 1954 *
136. *Gagrella nobilis* With, 1903 *
137. *Gagrella palnica* Roewer, 1929 *
138. *Gagrella patalungensis* Simon, 1901
139. *Gagrella prasina* Roewer, 1911 *
140. *Gagrella rufa* Roewer, 1954 *
141. *Gagrella satarana* Roewer, 1954 *
142. *Gagrella signata* Stoliczka, 1869 *
143. *Gagrella similis* (Roewer, 1911) *
144. *Gagrella speciosa* Roewer, 1911
145. *Gagrella spinulosa* Thorell, 1889
146. *Gagrella testacea* Roewer, 1954 *
147. *Gagrella triangularis fusca* With, 1903 *
148. *Gagrella triangularis triangularis* With, 1903 *
149. *Gagrella turki* Roewer, 1954 *
150. *Gagrella unispinosa* With, 1903 *
151. *Gagrella varians* With, 1903
152. *Gagrella viridalba* Roewer, 1954 *
153. *Gagrella viridula* Roewer, 1929 *
154. *Gagrellenna bipunctata* Roewer, 1929 *
155. *Gagrellula aborana* Roewer, 1954 *
156. *Gagrellula albilineata* Roewer, 1929 *
157. *Gagrellula bicolor* Roewer, 1954 *
158. *Gagrellula crux* (With, 1903)
159. *Gagrellula cuneimaculata* Roewer, 1954 *
160. *Gagrellula frontalis* Roewer, 1954 *
161. *Gagrellula giltayi* Roewer, 1954 *
162. *Gagrellula orissa* Roewer, 1954 *
163. *Gagrellula rufifrons* Roewer, 1954 *
164. *Gagrellula saddlana* Roewer, 1929 *
165. *Gagrellula simla* Roewer, 1954 *
166. *Gagrellula unicolor* Roewer, 1910 *
167. *Gagrellula virescens* Roewer, 1910 *
168. *Gagrellula viridula* Roewer, 1929 *
169. *Harmanda annulata* Roewer, 1911 *
170. *Harmanda caerulea* (Roewer, 1910)
171. *Harmanda elegantula* (Roewer, 1955)
172. *Harmanda instructa aenescens* (Roewer, 1911)
173. *Harmanda instructa instructa* Roewer, 1910
174. *Harmanda kanoi* (Suzuki, 1967)
175. *Harmanda lineata* Roewer, 1911 *
176. *Harmanda periscopos* Martens, 2018 *
177. *Heterogagrella indica* Roewer, 1954 *
178. *Hexomma feae conjugatum* (Roewer, 1954) *



179. *Hexomma feae feae* (Thorell, 1889)
180. *Hexomma feae humerale* (Thorell, 1889)
181. *Hypsibunus auronitens* Roewer, 1955 *
182. *Hypsibunus bicorniger* (Roewer, 1911) *
183. *Hypsibunus coronatus* Roewer, 1955 *
184. *Hypsibunus fuscus* (With, 1903) *
185. *Marthana beharensis* (Roewer, 1955) *
186. *Melanopa atrata* (Stoliczka, 1869)
187. *Melanopa hansenii* (With, 1903) *
188. *Melanopa matherania* Roewer, 1915 *
189. *Melanopa rugosa* Roewer, 1955 *
190. *Melanopa trochanteralis* Roewer, 1955 *
191. *Melanopa unicolor* Roewer, 1912 *
192. *Melanopella marginata* Roewer, 1955 *
193. *Melanopula biceps* Roewer, 1929 *
194. *Metasyleus orissus* Roewer, 1955 *
195. *Metasyleus tenuis* Roewer, 1955 *
196. *Metaverpulus albipunctatus* (Roewer, 1915) *
197. *Metaverpulus hirsutus* Roewer, 1912
198. *Metaverpulus laevis* Roewer, 1955 *
199. *Metaverpulus persimilis* Martens, 1987
200. *Metazaleptus hirsutus* (With, 1903)
201. *Neogagrella barnesi* Roewer, 1929 *
202. *Orissula heterospinulata* Roewer, 1955 *
203. *Palniella virididorsata* Roewer, 1929 *
204. *Paradentobunus aureomaculatus* Roewer, 1915 *
205. *Paragagrella mysorea* Roewer, 1939 *
206. *Pentazaleptus guttatus* Roewer, 1955 *
207. *Pergagrella monticola* Roewer, 1954 *
208. *Psathyropus bengalensis* (Roewer, 1954) *
209. *Psathyropus bilineatus* (Roewer, 1954) *
210. *Psathyropus cingulatus* (Roewer, 1954) *
211. *Psathyropus conspicuus* (Roewer, 1954) *
212. *Psathyropus guttatus* (Roewer, 1954) *
213. *Psathyropus koyamai* (Suzuki, 1979) *
214. *Psathyropus mysoreanus* (Roewer, 1954) *
215. *Psathyropus octomaculatus* (Roewer, 1954) *
216. *Psathyropus rufus* (Roewer, 1954) *
217. *Psathyropus satarensis* (Roewer, 1954) *
218. *Sataria coronata* Roewer, 1929 *
219. *Sataria maculata* Roewer, 1915 *
220. *Sataria unicolor* Roewer, 1915 *
221. *Syleus mysoreus* Roewer, 1955 *
222. *Syleus niger* (Koch, 1839) *
223. *Syleus rufus* Roewer, 1955 *
224. *Systemocentrus rufus* Roewer, 1955 *
225. *Tetraceratobunus lineatus* Roewer, 1915 *
226. *Tetraceratobunus marmoratus* Roewer, 1955 *
227. *Umbopilio martensi* Klimeš, 2006 *
228. *Verpulus gravelyi* (Roewer, 1929) *
229. *Xerogrella dolpensis* Martens, 1987 *
230. *Zaleptiolus implicatus* Suzuki, 1970
231. *Zaleptus assamensis* Roewer, 1955 *



232. *Zaleptus cochinensis* Roewer, 1955 *
233. *Zaleptus indicus* Roewer, 1929 *
234. *Zaleptus occidentalis* Roewer, 1955 *
235. *Zaleptus sulphureus* Thorell, 1889
236. *Zaleptus thorellii* With, 1903 *
237. *Zaleptus validus* Roewer, 1955 *
238. *Zaleptus viridis* Roewer, 1929 *

Family Stylocellidae Hansen & Sørensen, 1904

239. *Meghalaya annandalei* Giribet, Sharma & Bastawade, 2007 *

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