



REPORT

IND

2021



# A REPORT ON Dragonfly Festival 2020 Thumbimaholtsavam





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Cover Photo: © Archana P.S

Layout: Godfrey's Graphics

## FOREWORD

*From WWF India's  
Environment, Education Desk*



**T**he charismatic and colourful world of Odonata has enthralled us for ages. They are a pleasure to watch, and their dramatic common names add fun to the identification.

The Dragonfly Festival started in 2018 to demystify Dragonflies and Damselflies and celebrate their importance. The Festival aims to connect citizens with these fascinating creatures to support the conservation of these species and their habitats.

In the past 3 editions, the Festival has engaged more than 9000 individuals through on-ground counts, expert sessions, fun resources and competitions.

Till 2019, the Festival conducted on-ground identification, but in 2020 it was led digitally. We, along with our partners - Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and Indian Dragonfly Society (IDS) and NBA UNEP, UNDP, IUCN-CEC and other state-level organisations engaged over 7900 individuals across 10 states.

In Kerala, we joined hands with the Society for Odonate Studies and Thumbipuram, who conducted the festival and named it “Thumbimaholtsavam 2020”. I also appreciate the Kerala Forests and Wildlife Department and Kerala State Biodiversity Board for their support.

This report captures the Thumbimaholtsavam 2020 - Kerala in its entire length and breadth. I hope you enjoy reading the report, and it inspires you to be part of our Dragonfly Festival 2021.

**Radhika Suri,**

*Director, Education, WWF India*



## FOREWORD

*From the State Director's Desk*



As part of WWF's mission of nature conservation and environment protection, we do a lot of education, awareness and outreach programs under the banner of Environment Education. Biodiversity Festivals is one among them. Few years back we initiated the Dragonfly Festival in Delhi for creating more awareness on the lesser-known Dragonflies & Damselflies. Last year, the program went national with many states participating under the coordination of the State Offices.

Proud to say that WWF India Kerala State Office was the most prominent implementer of the Dragonfly Festival across the State with Society for Odonate Studies as the Technical Partner and Thumbipuranam as the Media Partner.

Under the banner of Dragonfly Festival 2020-21 (named as Thumbimaholtsavam in Kerala), we organised State Launch, Training of Trainers, Webinars, Expert Talks, Backyard Odonata Watch, Odonata Photography Competition etc.

Among the other participating states in India, it was only in Kerala, that we could organise Webinars for Field Staff of Kerala Forests & Wildlife Department at the Circle-level.

As we come to Dragonfly Festival 2021, it is with great joy that we put out this report on Thumbimaholtsavam 2020 in Kerala. Happy reading. Pls come back to us if you would like to become part of the festival this year, or would like to partner with WWF in our mission in other ways through our projects and programs.

**Renjan Mathew Varghese**  
*State Director (Kerala), WWF India*



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## FOREWORD

*From the Implementation Partner's Desk*



Odonates, more popularly known as Dragonflies and Damselflies, are some of the most attractive organisms on earth. They are regarded as the symbol of the triumph of insects over land and skies. Being primarily aquatic insects, they are amongst the best ecological indicators of wetland health. Even though India is rich in Odonata fauna, natural history and ecology of many of the species are yet to be known.

This vacuum of knowledge on Odonata is largely due to the lack of awareness among the general public. Concentrated efforts are required to popularize Odonata so that better understanding of these creatures can be achieved. Thanks to the relentless efforts of Society for Odonate Studies (SOS), recently there is a surge of interest in Odonata among young naturalists and wildlife enthusiasts in Kerala. SOS joined hands with WWF-INDIA and our digital wing Thumbipuranam for ‘Thumbimaholtsavam’ so that the glorious tales of our ‘thumbies’ would reach far and wide. By disseminating knowledge of these wonderful insects, we can engage more and more people and ensure their conservation.

**Jeevan Jose**

*President, Society for Odonate Studies*



The background of the page is white and decorated with numerous colorful illustrations of dragonflies and butterflies. The dragonflies are in various colors including red, blue, green, and yellow, and are scattered across the page. The butterflies are mostly light purple and pink, also scattered throughout. The overall theme is nature and insects.

## DRAGONFLY FESTIVAL 2020 - “Thumbimaholtsavam”

**WWF India** has been organizing the dragonfly festival on a national level for the past couple of years in association with Bombay Natural History Society, IDS, NBA, UNEP, UNDP, IUCN-CEC. WWF India, Kerala State Office joined hands with Society for Odonate Studies (SOS) and Thumbipuram to organize the first-ever Dragonfly Festival in Kerala. The festival was named *Thumbimaholtsavam* in Kerala.

*Thumbimaholtsavam* was formally inaugurated by Dr. K.A. Subramanian, Officer-in-Charge, Southern Regional Centre, Zoological Survey of India, Chennai on August 15, 2020. He also unveiled the mascot of *Thumbimaholtsavam*, “Pantalu.” Nikhil John, Renjan Mathew Varghese and A.K Sivakumar (WWF), Sujith V Gopalan (SOS), and Jeffin John (Thumbipuram) spoke on the occasion representing the various participating organizations.

## Dragonflies and Damselflies

Dragonflies and damselflies — collectively called odonates — are among some of the oldest winged insect group on Earth. They have been around for 250 million years. There are over 6,000 species of Odonata on the planet, and most of them depend on freshwater habitats. India has over 500 species, with the greatest diversity in the Western Ghats and Northeast India. 196 species in 14 families and 83 genera are known from the Western Ghats. Of this, 175 species are reported from Kerala.

Dragonflies and damselflies from the nymph stage to the adult stage, the dragonfly has a significant, positive ecological impact. Being predators both at larval and adult stages, they play a significant role in the wetland food chain. Adult odonates feed on mosquitoes, blackflies and other blood-sucking flies and act as an important biocontrol agent for these harmful insects. They play ecological roles not only as predators but also as prey of birds, frogs and other creatures.

Since odonates have well-known habitat requirements (fresh water ecosystems that vary from coastlines to tropical rain forests) and are easily identifiable, they are one of the best indicators of ecosystem quality and biodiversity. Many studies show that dragonflies are sensitive not only to the quality of the wetland, but also to major landscape changes, especially changes in the riparian zone.

Major threats to Western Ghats Odonates, according to the IUCN, have been identified as agriculture, urban development and water pollution. Large scale habitat alterations such as damming, channel diversion and sand mining are also seriously threatening the habitat of survival of these species.

We need to form long term conservation initiatives for these lesser known by significant species in order to protect our environment.

# Pantalu



Designed by Harikrishnana S, Thumbipuranam

**T**he Globe Skimmer (*Pantala flavescens*) is a globally widespread species of dragonfly. Migrations of these dragonflies are noted on all continents (except Antarctica), over both land and the oceans. One such migration route is from Africa to India and back with the help of the monsoon winds.

The huge numbers and migratory behavior make them one of the most noticed species of dragonfly, which steered many naturalists to look into Odonates seriously. They also play a crucial role in the ecosystem by controlling pests in farmlands and acting as a vital food source for many organisms.

Pantalu is the mascot version of the Globe Skimmer. The name 'Pantalu' was derived from its scientific name *Pantala flavescens*. It was selected as the official mascot for Thumbimaholtsavam-2020 to honor them for their important role in the ecosystem and inspiring generations of naturalists. The mascot was designed by Harikrishnan S, Thumbipuranam.



Webinars under the banner “Know Your Dragons” were organized for Students and Teachers of various colleges and universities as part of *Thumbimaholtsavam*. Photography competition, the backyard Odonata watch, etc were also the other events which were included in the program.

### Webinars for Selected Volunteers:

Initially, 5 webinars were conducted for selected Odonata enthusiasts. The training was of intermediate level and participants with some basic understanding of Odonates were selected. The 4 sessions taken were (1) introduction to Odonata (2) taxonomy and identification, (3) evolution and ecology, and (4) behavior of Odonata.

The first of the webinar on Introduction to Odonata which was conducted on 28-08-2020 by Sri David Raju. Sri Vivek Chandran A presented taxonomy and identification of Odonata on 28-08-2020 and 29-08-2020. Evolution and Ecology of Odonates were presented by Sujith V Gopalan on 04-09-2020.

Finally, the behavior of the Odonata was covered by Sri Balachandran V on 05-09-2020.

On 26-09-2021, eminent Odonata Larval Expert, Prof. Prosenjit Dawn, gave an expert talk about the larval stages of Odonata. The title of the presentation was “Dragons Under Water – The Aquatic Life of Odonates.”

## Webinars for College Teachers and Students

“Know Your Dragons” Webinars were organized at the following institutions as part of *Thumbimaholtsavam*.

- MG College, Thiruvananthapuram, on 08-09-2020 Presented by Balachandran V & Sujith V Gopalan (70 Participants)
- SreeAyyappa College, Chengannur, Alappuzha on 22-12-2020, presented by Vivek Chandran
- Sree Narayana College, Kollam on 23-12-2020, Presented by Sujith V Gopalan and Vivek Chandran
- SNGCAS, Chembazhanthy on 26-12-2020 presented by Balachandran V and Govind Girija
- Kerala Agricultural University on 07-01-2021 presented by Vivek Chandran and Sujith V Gopalan (49 Participants)
- Christian College, Chengannur, Alappuzha presented by Balachandran V.
- Department of Zoology, Mananthavady Campus, Kannur University, On 30-01-2021 by Balachandran V and Sujith V Gopalan (84 Participants)

WWF-INDIA (Kerala), Society for Odonate Studies and Thumbipuranam cordially invite you to an expert talk on odonates.

**DRAGONS UNDER WATER**  
The aquatic life of odonates

Date : 26-09-2020  
Time : 06:45pm IST

Meeting Details  
Meeting ID : 962 6350 7583  
Password : 368093

Prof. Prosenjit Dawn  
Odonate Larval Expert

**KNOW YOUR DRAGONS**  
Webinar jointly organised by Society for Odonate Studies, Thumbipuranam, WWF-India & NSS Unit, Sree Narayana College of Advanced Studies, Chempazhanthy (Under Prathyasha 2020) in connection with Thumbimaholtsavam 2020.

DATE: 26th December 2020  
TIME: 06:30 PM- 07:45 PM IST

Session 1  
Introduction to Odonates  
Balachandran V  
Society for Odonate Studies

Session 2  
Odonates of Kerala  
Govind Girija  
Thumbipuranam

CONTACT  
Syam Kumar S  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Geography  
SNGCAS Chempazhanthy  
+91 88911 70270

## Training Program for Kerala State Biodiversity Board

Webinars were conducted for the district coordinators and other officials of the Kerala State Biodiversity Board. It was organized as three separate webinars for South Zone (19-02-2021), Central Zone (20-02-2021), and North Zone (22-02-2021). For each zone, sessions on Evolution and Behavior of Odonata (led by Sri Balachandran V ), Ecology and Conservation of Odonata (lead by Sri Sujith V Gopalan), and Introduction to Common Odonata (Sri Vivek Chandran A) were held. 90 participants attended this program.



**KNOW YOUR DRAGONS**  
A WEBINAR ON ODONATES

Jointly organised by  
KERALA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD  
SOCIETY FOR ODONATE STUDIES (SOS).  
WWF-INDIA & THUMBIPURANAM



19-02-2021 - FRIDAY - 10.30 AM TO 12.30 PM.

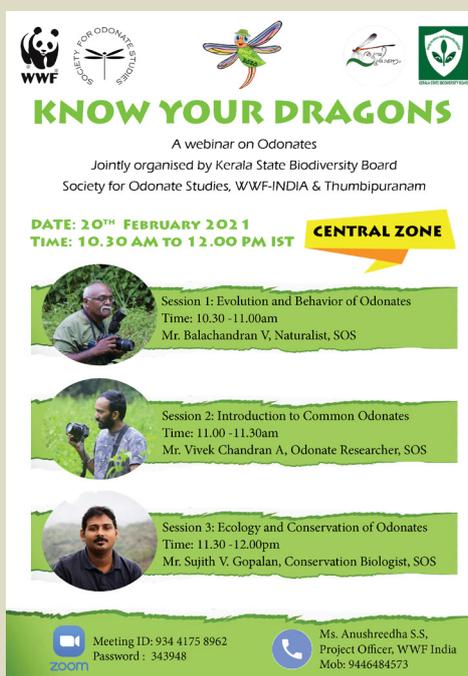
10.30 AM : INAUGURAL SESSION

Welcome & : Mr. Benjan Mathew Varghese  
Project Introduction : State Director (Kerala), WWF-India  
Inaugural address : Member Secretary, Kerala State Biodiversity Board  
Vote of Thanks : Scientific Officer, Kerala State Biodiversity Board

SESSIONS - 10.50 AM TO 12.30 PM

10.50 AM : Evolution and Behavior of Odonates  
Mr. Balachandran V, Naturalist, SOS  
11.20 AM : Introduction to Common Odonates  
Mr. Vivek Chandran A, Odonate Researcher, SOS  
11.50 AM : Ecology and Conservation of Odonates  
Mr. Sujith V. Gopalan, Conservation Biologist, SOS  
12.20 PM : Question and Answer

Meeting ID: 94510279436  
Password: 475823  
Ms. Anushreedha S.S.,  
Project Officer, WWF India  
Mob: 9446484573



**KNOW YOUR DRAGONS**  
A webinar on Odonates

Jointly organised by Kerala State Biodiversity Board  
Society for Odonate Studies, WWF-INDIA & Thumbipuramam

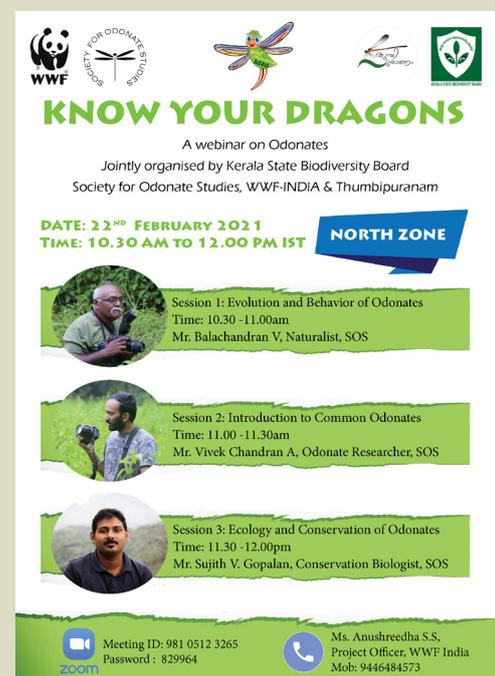
DATE: 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021  
TIME: 10.30 AM TO 12.00 PM IST **CENTRAL ZONE**

Session 1: Evolution and Behavior of Odonates  
Time: 10.30 -11.00am  
Mr. Balachandran V, Naturalist, SOS

Session 2: Introduction to Common Odonates  
Time: 11.00 -11.30am  
Mr. Vivek Chandran A, Odonate Researcher, SOS

Session 3: Ecology and Conservation of Odonates  
Time: 11.30 -12.00pm  
Mr. Sujith V. Gopalan, Conservation Biologist, SOS

Meeting ID: 934 4175 8962  
Password: 343948  
Ms. Anushreedha S.S.,  
Project Officer, WWF India  
Mob: 9446484573



**KNOW YOUR DRAGONS**  
A webinar on Odonates

Jointly organised by Kerala State Biodiversity Board  
Society for Odonate Studies, WWF-INDIA & Thumbipuramam

DATE: 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2021  
TIME: 10.30 AM TO 12.00 PM IST **NORTH ZONE**

Session 1: Evolution and Behavior of Odonates  
Time: 10.30 -11.00am  
Mr. Balachandran V, Naturalist, SOS

Session 2: Introduction to Common Odonates  
Time: 11.00 -11.30am  
Mr. Vivek Chandran A, Odonate Researcher, SOS

Session 3: Ecology and Conservation of Odonates  
Time: 11.30 -12.00pm  
Mr. Sujith V. Gopalan, Conservation Biologist, SOS

Meeting ID: 981 0512 3265  
Password: 829964  
Ms. Anushreedha S.S.,  
Project Officer, WWF India  
Mob: 9446484573

## Training Program for Kerala Forests & Wildlife Department:

Training program was organized for the field staff of the Kerala Forests and Wildlife Department. It was inaugurated on 23-02-2021 by Sri Surendrakumar IFS, PCCF (WL), CWW, Kerala. The inaugural session was graced by the presence of Sri BN Anjan Kumar IFS, CF (WL), & TA to PCCF (WL) & CWW, Kerala; MsRadhika Suri, Director, Environment Education, WWF-India; Sri Renjan Mathew Varghese, State Director (Kerala), WWF-India; and Sri Balachandran V, Executive Member, SOS.

Dr. K. A. Subramanian, delivered the keynote address on “Significance of Lesser-Known Odonates”. Following which Sri Sujith V Gopalan spoke about the “Role of Odonates in Park Management.”



The training modules included Introduction to Odonata, Odonates of Kerala, and Ecology and Conservation of Odonata. Three separate sessions were organized for the officials of South Circle (24-02-2021), Central Circle (25-02-2021), and Northern Circle (26-02-2021) so that maximum participants could be accommodated. The sessions and the instructors were as follows: Introduction to Odonata by Sri Balachandran V, Odonates of Kerala by Sri Vivek Chandran, Ecology and Conservation of Odonata by Sri Sujith V Gopalan. A total of 476 staff participated from the department.

For each zone an inaugural program was conducted which included a welcome note, an introduction to the program and an inaugural address followed by the expert talk and vote of thanks. The welcome address to the southern circle was done by Sri J R Anil, Wildlife Warden, Thiruvananthapuram, about the program by Sri Renjan Mathew Varghese, State Director (Kerala), WWF-INDIA and the inaugural address by Dr. R. Adalarasan IFS, CF(Wildlife), ABP circle.

The Central Circle welcome note was delivered Ms Silpa V Kumar, IFS, DFO, Thrissur, about the program by Sri Renjan Mathew Varghese, State Director (Kerala), WWF-INDIA and the inaugural address by Sri Georgi P Mathachen. IFS, CCF, High Range Circle.

Welcome address for Northern Circle was delivered by Sri Ajayghosh. V, Asst Wildlife Warden, Silent Valley National Park, about the program by Sri Renjan Mathew Varghese, State Director (Kerala), WWF-INDIA and the inaugural address by Sri K. Manoj. TA to CCF, Eastern Circle, Palakkad.

## Backyard Odonata Count (#thumbi2020):

As part of Thumbimaholtsavam, a backyard Odonata count was organized. This event was implemented through the “Dragonflies of Kerala” Facebook Group. Participants were instructed to share photographs with the hashtag #thumbi2020 along with the date and place of observation. The event started on August 15, 2020 and ran till October 31, 2020. All the observations which came under the hashtag #thumbi2020 were compiled in a google spreadsheet. 2281 observations were recorded during the 62 days of backyard count. As many as 112 participants took part in the event and 118 species were documented. Sri VibhuVipanchika from Kannur documented 79 species followed by Sri Muhammed Haneef (62 species) and Sri Muneer Tholpetty (59 species). The top 15 contributors were felicitated.

BNHS India | WWF | 50 YEARS IN INDIA | FOR ODOMATA WATCH

Top 15 contributors will be felicitated

THUMBIMAHOLTSAVAM 2020  
**BACKYARD WATCH**

At Your Backyard..Anytime..  
August 15 - October 15, 2020

use hashtag #thumbi2020 in your posts!

In connection with Thumbimaholtsavam 2020, observe those dragonflies in your backyard. Photograph them and post it with the location and date of observation to our facebook group "Dragonflies of Kerala". Use the hashtag #thumbi2020 and be a part of Kerala's first Dragonfly Fest. Let's celebrate this!

f DRAGONFLIES OF KERALA | f Thumbipuranam | Instagram Thumbi\_puranam



THUMBIMAHOLTSAVAM 2020



# BACKYARD ODONATA WATCH

FIRST QUADRANT ANALYSIS

15th to 31st August, 2020



**106 SPECIES**

- In 16 days
- 1015 observations
- 84 observers

- 10 TOP FINDS**
1. *Macromia flavocolorata*
  2. *Macromia cingulata*
  3. *Idionyx gomantakensis*
  4. *Gomphidia kodaguensis*
  5. *Indosticta deccanensis*
  6. *Esmé cyaneovittata*
  7. *Indolestes davenportii*
  8. *Ceriatagrion chromothorax*
  9. *Melanoneura bilineata*
  10. *Protosticta sanguinostigma*

**ABOUT THE FESTIVAL** In connection with Thumbimaholtsavam 2020, observe those dragonflies in your backyard. Photograph them and post it with the location and date of observation to our facebook group "Dragonflies of Kerala". Use the hashtag #thumbi2020 and be a part of Kerala's first Dragonfly Fest.



THUMBIMAHOLTSAVAM 2020



# BACKYARD ODONATA WATCH

FIRST QUADRANT ANALYSIS

15th to 31st August, 2020

**10 TOP FINDS**

1. *Macromia flavocolorata*
2. *Macromia cingulata*
3. *Idionyx gomantakensis*
4. *Gomphidia kodaguensis*
5. *Indosticta deccanensis*
6. *Esmé cyaneovittata*
7. *Indolestes davenportii*
8. *Ceriatagrion chromothorax*
9. *Melanoneura bilineata*
10. *Protosticta sanguinostigma*

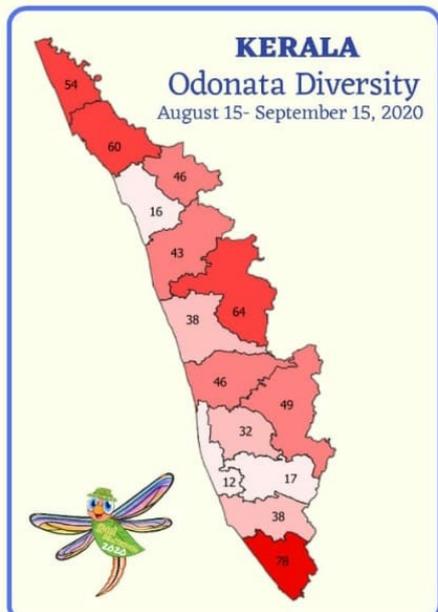




50  
YEARS INDIA



## Thumbimahotsavam 2020 BACKYARD ODONATA WATCH



## SECOND QUADRANT ANALYSIS

01-15 SEPTEMBER, 2020

**Species Observed : 88**

**Observations : 488**

**Observers : 70**

### DISTRICTS

1. KASARAGOD	44
82 Observations	SPECIES
2. KANNUR	39
78 Observations	SPECIES
3. TRIVANDRUM	46
72 Observations	SPECIES
4. PALAKKAD	44
71 Observations	SPECIES
5. ERNAKULAM	25
36 Observations	SPECIES
6. THRISSUR	23
54 Observations	SPECIES
7. IDUKKI	20
24 Observations	SPECIES
8. KOTTAYAM	18
24 Observations	SPECIES
9. PATHANAMTHITTA	16
19 Observations	SPECIES
10. MALAPPURAM	15
18 Observations	SPECIES
11. KOLLAM	11
12 Observations	SPECIES
12. ALAPPUZHA	06
11 Observations	SPECIES
13. KOZHIKODE	06
07 Observations	SPECIES
14. WAYANAD	No Observations

### TOP FINDS

1. *Anax immaculifrons*
2. *Cyclogomphus heterostylus*
3. *Cyclogomphus flavoannulatus*
4. *Elattonneura souteri*
5. *Elattonneura tetrica*
6. *Melligomphus acinaces*
7. *Microgomphus souteri*
8. *Phylloneura westermanni*
9. *Protosticta rufostigma*
10. *Palpopleura sexmaculata*

### BACKYARD ODONATA WATCH

AUGUST 15- SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

**Total species observed : 114**

**Total observations : 1523**

**Total observers : 92**

Thumbimaholsavam - 2020

## Backyard Odonata Watch

15th August 2020 to 15th October 2020

62 days

2281 Observations

112 Observers

TOTAL NUMBER OF SPECIES OBSERVED  
**118**



50  
YEARS IN INDIA



## Top 15 Contributors



1 Vibhu Vipanjika	79 (102)
2 Muhammed Haneef	62 (114)
3 Muneer Tholpetty	59 (59)
4 Abhin M Sunil	57 (72)
5 Shino Jacob Kootanad	51 (81)
6 Raju Kidoor	45 (54)
7 Afsar Nayakkan	43 (118)
8 Ambily	43 (49)
9 Jaya Kumar	38 (46)
10 Rameez ELM	32 (45)
11 Hariha Haridas	31 (53)
12 Ahammed Saeed	30 (49)
13 Niithya S V	28 (29)
14 Mridul M A	26 (34)
15 Rajeev Thrikkalathoor	25 (36)

\*Number of species (Number of observation)



Vibhu Vipanjika  
Kannur



Muhammed Haneef  
Kasaragod



Muneer Tholpetty  
Wayanad

## Photography Contest:

The photography contest was organized under three themes viz; “Odonates in their Habitats”, “Macro” and “Dragons and Damsels”. The contest was held for both DSLR camera and mobile photography categories.

The photos were evaluated by a judging panel consisting of Sri Jeevan Jose, Sri David Raju and Sri Biju P B. The winners were given a Panthalu memento, WWF volunteer T shirts and caps.



**Thumbimaholsavam-2020**  
presents  
**ODONATA  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
CONTEST**

20-09-2020  
to  
26-10-2020

Exciting  
prizes  
await

**STAY TUNED**

NATIONAL PARTNERS:

**Thumbimaholsavam - 2020**  
presents  
**ODONATA  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
CONTEST**

**Theme #1  
ODONATES IN THEIR  
HABITATS**

Entries accepted  
till  
27/09/2020  
(12 AM)

**CONTACT**  
Reji Chandran-8078375408  
Harikrishnan- 8281497273

Google form link :  
<https://forms.gle/n5DYusNbDFoLWgaz7>

NATIONAL PARTNERS:

**Thumbimaholsavam - 2020**  
presents  
**ODONATA  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
CONTEST**

**Mobile  
Professional**

**Theme #2  
MACRO**

Entries accepted till  
8/10/2020 (11 PM)

**CONTACT**  
Reji Chandran-8078375408  
Harikrishnan- 8281497273

Google form link :  
<https://forms.gle/qEGrehKNFgGcn48B>

NATIONAL PARTNERS:

**Thumbimaholsavam - 2020**  
presents  
**ODONATA  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
CONTEST**

**Mobile  
Professional**

**Theme #3  
Dragons  
& Damsels\***

Entries accepted till  
07/11/2020 (11 PM)

\*Dragons & Damsels is the last theme  
of the contest. Submit your  
dragonfly/damselfly photos  
and win exciting prizes.

**CONTACT**  
Reji Chandran-8078375408  
Harikrishnan- 8281497273

Google form link :  
<https://forms.gle/MwxEs7rIAr4FUJZA>

NATIONAL PARTNERS:

The winners for the theme #1, “Odonates in their Habitats”, in the DSLR camera category were Sri. Nidheesh K.B (1<sup>st</sup> Prize), Sri. Krishnanunni TS (2<sup>nd</sup>Prize), and Ms. Mridula S (3<sup>rd</sup> prize). Winners in the mobile category for this theme were Sri. Subin K.S (1<sup>st</sup>Prize), Ms. Aamina Ismail (2<sup>nd</sup> Prize), and Sri Jayakrishnan S (3<sup>rd</sup>Prize).

## Thumbimaholtsavam - 2020 ODONATE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



**Theme #1: Odonates in their habitats**  
**[Mobile category winners]**

**Subin K.S.**



**Aamina Ismail**



**Jayakrishnan S.**

NATIONAL PARTNERS



# Thumbimaholtsavam - 2020 ODONATE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



**Theme #1: Odonates in their habitats**  
[Camera category winners]

**Nidheesh K.B.**



**1 st**



**2 nd**

**Krishnanunni T.S.**



**3 rd**



**Mridula S.**

NATIONAL PARTNERS



For the second theme Macro, the winners in the DSLR camera category were Sri Avinash PC (1<sup>st</sup> Prize), Sri Thomson Saburaj (2<sup>nd</sup> Prize), and Sri Jayakrishnan S (3<sup>rd</sup>Prize).

# Thumbimaholtsavam - 2020 ODONATE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



## Theme #2: MACRO [Camera category winners]



Avinash P.C.



1 st

Thomsoo Saburaj



2 nd



Jayakrishnan S.



3 rd

NATIONAL PARTNERS



In the mobile category, the winners were Sri Rajeev P.R (1<sup>st</sup>Prize), Ms. Aiswarya A (2<sup>nd</sup> Prize), and Ms Jyothi Roy (3<sup>rd</sup>Prize).

# Thumbimaholsavam - 2020 ODONATE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



## Theme #2: MACRO [Mobile category winners]



1 st



Rajeev P.R.



2 nd



Aiswarya A.



3 rd



Jyothi Roy

NATIONAL PARTNERS



# Thumbimaholtsavam-2020 ODONATE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



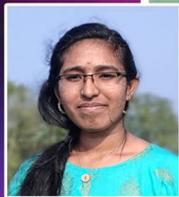
## Theme #3: DRAGONS & DAMSELS (MOBILE CATEGORY WINNERS)



HARITHA M



AKSHARA MADHU



ARCHANA P.S

NATIONAL PARTNERS



For the third theme Dragons and Damsels, the winners in the DSLR camera category were Sri Brayan B Paul (1<sup>st</sup> Prize), Sri PC (2<sup>nd</sup> Prize), and Ms Anjana Padmesh (3<sup>rd</sup>Prize).

# Thumbimaholtsavam-2020 ODONATE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

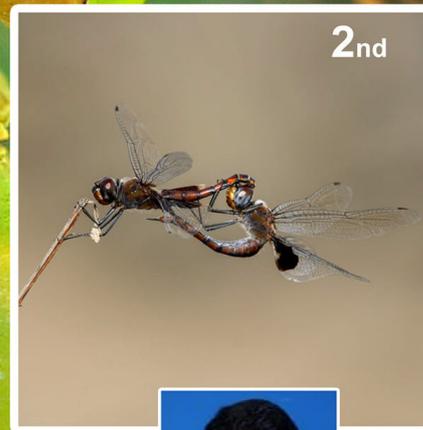


## Theme #3: DRAGONS & DAMSELS (DSLR CATEGORY WINNERS)



1<sup>st</sup>

BRAYAN B PAUL



2<sup>nd</sup>



AVINASH P.C



3<sup>rd</sup>



ANJANA PADMESH

NATIONAL PARTNERS



In the mobile category, the winners were Ms Haritha M (1<sup>st</sup> Prize), Ms Akshara Madhu (2<sup>nd</sup> Prize), and Ms Archana PS (3<sup>rd</sup> Prize).

## Press coverage

Regular press coverages were given in major print mediaduring the conduct of the Dragonfly Festival, *Thumbimaholtsavam*, in Kerala.

### State to host dragonfly fete

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

WWF-India State unit has joined hands with the Society for Odonate Studies (SOS) and Thumbipuranam for the first-ever State Dragonfly Festival in Kerala, christened Thumbimaholtsavam 2020.

This is part of a national dragonfly festival being organised by the WWF India, Bombay Natural History Society & Indian Dragonfly Society. 'Pantalu' is the official mascot of the festival.

A 'dragonfly backyard watch' has been announced to enhance the participation of people. A social media campaign is on to spread the message. A field guide on common dragonflies of Kerala and a children's dragonfly colouring book are also being prepared.

A digital odonate knowledge hub will be established under the SOS/Thumbipuranamfacebook-



page, which will host materials in the form of scientific papers, posters, videos and stickers. Various competitions will also be organised.

**Contact persons**  
The festival will culminate with the State dragonfly summit, most probably in January.

Those interested may contact A.K. Sivakumar at [asivakumar@wwfindia.net](mailto:asivakumar@wwfindia.net) or Sujith V. Gopalan of SOS at [sujith.vg@gmail.com](mailto:sujith.vg@gmail.com).

5/26/2021  
Home > Cities > Kochi

### Kerala's first-ever Dragonfly Festival to be held soon

As part of the Dragonfly Festival, a series of events will be rolled out in the coming months to reach out to various sections of the society.

Published: 22nd August 2020 01:51 AM | Last Updated: 22nd August 2020 01:51 AM



By Express News Service

KOCHI: WWF-India Kerala State Office is joining hands with the Society for Odonate Studies (SOS) and Thumbipuranam for the first-ever state Dragonfly Festival in Kerala, christened Thumbi Maholtsavam 2020. This is part of the National Dragonfly Festival organised by WWF India, Bombay Natural History Society and Indian Dragonfly Society in association with National Biodiversity Board, UN Environmental Programme, UN Development Programme and IUCN-CEC.

As part of the Dragonfly Festival, a series of events will be rolled out in the coming months to reach out to various sections of the society. Initially, a training session will be organised to get more people trained on dragonflies. This will be followed by a

KERALA

### 'Flying jewels' keep dragonfly enthusiasts riveted

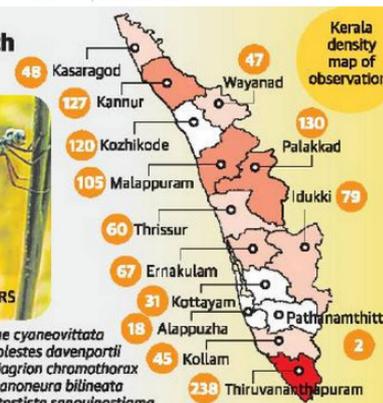
S. Anil Radhakrishnan

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPTEMBER 11, 2020 23:23 IST  
UPDATED: SEPTEMBER 11, 2020 23:24 IST

SHARE ARTICLE | f | t | w | g | e | p | o | PRINT | A | A | A

#### Backyard Odonata Watch

First quadrant analysis



**106 SPECIES** | **16 DAYS**

**1015 OBSERVATIONS** | **84 OBSERVERS**

**10 top finds**

- *Macromia flavocolarata*
- *Macromia cingulata*
- *Idionyx gomantakensis*
- *Gomphidia kadaguensis*
- *Indosticta deccanensis*
- *Esme cyaneovittata*
- *Indolestes davenportii*
- *Ceragrion chromothorax*
- *Melanoneura bilineata*
- *Protosticta sanguinostigma*

106 species spotted at Backyard Odonata Watch

### THUMBI MAHOTSAVAM

#### Youth chase dragonflies for knowledge and fun



Members of Thumbipuranam during a backyard watch as part of the event

Since August, Aluva St Xavier's College student Anina Ismail has been having a fun learning routine. Around 5:30 am, she steps out into her courtyard to observe dragonflies (aka odonates). Clicking their guitars, noting their numbers in a notebook and documenting them and sharing the same online.

Like her, about 100 people mostly young ones, from across the State have been closely observing and sharing what they see of these 'flying jewels' as part of Thumbi Maholtsavam 2020, a first-of-its-kind dragonfly festival. Not only is it aimed at understanding dragonflies better, for many, it also has been a leisure activity during these times of restrictions.

Aluva Ismail could spot around 10 odonate varieties. Always glad having fun, she also got to contribute data based on our first quadrant analysis.

The event is organised by WWF India, alongside Society for Odonate Studies and the social media group Thumbipuranam. The backyard watch is on till October 15.

Lovely Jaffar Akbar of Thumbipuranam says, "Kerala is said to have about 170 species of dragonflies and already we have spotted 114 species through these sessions. At a time in which activities like sports are not practical, we have been able to do some considerable nature work and data collection through this fun-filled activity. We are keen on their ecological impact, behaviour, individual and more." He also organised a similar in colleges and recently held one in ME College, Thiruvananthapuram.

The event has also been training people from through Thumbi Maholtsavam 2020. "The event has also been training people from through Thumbi Maholtsavam 2020. The event has also been training people from through Thumbi Maholtsavam 2020. The event has also been training people from through Thumbi Maholtsavam 2020."

Aluva Ismail says, "I love it in an urban area in Aluva, but could spot around 30 species myself. The event has been helping us understand nature and these flying jewels through experts who are also part of the Thumbi Maholtsavam 2020. The event will continue with the State Dragonfly Summit, expected to be held in January 2021."

**RURAL AREAS GENERALLY HAVE MORE DRAGONFLIES. I LIVE IN AN URBAN AREA IN ALUVA, BUT COULD SPOT AROUND 20 TYPES MYSELF. THE EVENT HAS HELPED US UNDERSTAND NATURE AND DRAGONFLIES BETTER**

—Anina Ismail

## EXPERTS



### **Balachandran V**

Balachandran is an amateur naturalist and an executive member of the Society for Odonate Studies (SOS). He has scripted for several wildlife documentaries and has authored articles on travel and nature conservation.



### **Sujith V Gopalan**

Sujith is an executive member of the SOS and a researcher who advocates conservation action plans based on lesser faunal groups. As part of the awareness campaign he has conducted many talks, written articles, book and brochures. Sujith also has many scientific publications to his credit. He has volunteered, designed, and led many citizen science campaigns through SOS, WWF, and other NGOs.



### **Vivek Chandran A**

Vivek is a birdwatcher turned odonate researcher and an executive member of the SOS. He gives talks and writes popular articles to communicate his research findings to a wide audience. A strong supporter of citizen science initiatives, he aspires to act as a bridge between scientists and enthusiasts to document biodiversity and take conservation action.



### **Govind Girija**

Govind is a nature enthusiast. He is fond of odonates, birds and amphibians and is very much into conservation outreach programs. Govind is a member of Society for Odonate Studies and also an active volunteer of WWF



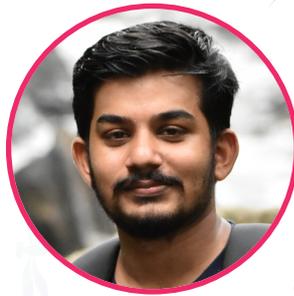
## Acknowledgement

The team of *Thumbimaholtsavam* is thankful to the media friends for the press coverage and special thanks and tribute to Late S Anil Radhakrishnan, Ex Chief of Bureau, The Hindu for the national level coverage and priority he had given to the *Thumbimaholtsavam 2020*.



### **Thumbimaholtsavam 2020 Team**

WWF India Kerala State Office - Renjan Mathew Varghese,  
A K Sivakumar and Anushreedha S S and  
Merlin Mariam Varghese



### **SOS and Thumbipuram**

Balachandran V, Muhammed Sheriff, Sujith V G,  
Vivek Chandran A, Govind Girija, Jeffin John,  
Harikrishnan S, Reji Chandran, David Raju





**Why we are here**

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

[www.panda.org](http://www.panda.org)

**World Wide Fund for Nature – India  
(WWF-India)  
Kerala State Office**

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