




## Checklist of Indian mites in the family Laelapidae Canestrini, 1891 (Acari: Mesostigmata)\*

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The mite family Laelapidae Canestrini, 1891 (Acari: Parasitiformes) is one of the most diverse families in the Order Mesostigmata. The family is cosmopolitan and ecologically diverse, including obligate and facultative parasites of vertebrates, insect paraphages, and free-living predators that occur in soil and litter and the nests of vertebrates and arthropods. The free-living species have received considerable attention as predatory biological control agents of agri-horticultural pests that spend at least part of their life in the soil.

Very little is known about the Laelapidae of India. Previous studies have included descriptions of some species found in soil, brief studies of the parasites of vertebrates, and some data about the parasites of arthropods, especially bees. We now present a checklist of the Laelapidae of India, reviewing the available information on the distribution and biology of 66 species belonging to 21 genera. The information presented includes the current valid name of each species with a bibliographic reference to its original description, a reference explaining the current taxonomic placement of the species, references to at least one paper that records the species in India, and references to the available information about its biology. The correct identification of some species is unresolved. We expect that these species represent only a small fraction of the total Indian fauna.

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