

Ariosoma Tamilicum

Why in News?

The National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR) has identified the 14th eel species from the Indian coast.

- It is a **new species of Congrid eel** discovered off Thoothukudi coast, Tamil Nadu.
- **Genus** - Ariosoma.
- **Nomenclature** - It was named tamilicum, with reference to the world's oldest language, Tamil.
- **Uniqueness** - The new species presented with dorsal surface of head with single whitish band across anterior eye margin.
- The ventral portion of lower jaw had tiny dark pigmentation patches, forming a dark line along the isthmus.
- It had long, vomerine teeth patch, reaching half the length of maxillary, and possessed 120-129 total vertebrae.
- **Size** - It grows up to 30 centimetres in length.
- **Divergence** - It is morphologically closely related to **Ariosoma emmae** from the Taiwan waters but exhibits 13.4% genetic divergence in mitochondrial CO1 gene sequences.
- It is **non-toxic** and is commonly used as poultry feed.
- These eels are **benthic dwellers**, living at the bottom of the sea.
- **Consumption** - If the protein level is comparable to other edible fish, it could be suggested that they be commercialized for consumption.



Reference

[The Hindu | Tamilicum](#)



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