Discovery of three new antlion species

Prelims - *Current events of national and international importance | Conservation*

Why in News?

A research team recently discovered three antlion species from the tribe Palparini for the first time in Kerala, Western Ghats region.

- **Insect order –** Neuroptera.
- **3 new species**
  - Indopalpares pardus,
  - Palpares contrarius and
  - Stenares harpyia
- These are ***dry-zone species*** at present discovered in humid forest ecosystems.
- **Diet -** These insects' prey on ants and in the adult stage.
- **Lifespan –** It is restricted to just a month for reproduction before they perish.

Indopalpares pardus 	• This widely distributed species previously reported from Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha and other northern states. • It has now been recorded from Vazhayur in Malappuram district.

Palpares contrarius 	• Earlier records of this species are known from Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Mizoram. • Now found in several locations across Kerala.
Stenares harpyia 	• Earlier restricted to Tamil Nadu and Telangana. • It has now been discovered in Kerala extending its known range significantly into southern Western Ghats.

- **Significance** - The discovery adds to the known insect biodiversity of the Western Ghats and highlights the importance of studying these regions for further discoveries.

Reference

Times of India | Three antlion species in Kerala

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