

Discovery of three new antlion species

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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](#)