Lyriothemis Abrahami

Prelims - *Current events of National & International importance | General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity & climate change.*

Why in News?

Recently, a new species of dragonfly, Lyriothemis abrahami, was discovered in Kerala, which was previously misidentified as Lyriothemis flava due to superficial similarities.

- **Discovered by** - Researchers from the Travancore Nature History Society (TNHS).
- **Nomenclature** - Named after odonatologist Abraham Samuel.
- **Scientific name -** Lyriothemis abrahami.
- **Family –** Libellulidae.
- **Order –** Odonata, insect order that includes dragonflies and damselflies.
    - It increased Kerala's odonate species count to 191, including 78 endemic species.
- The species was spotted only 4 times in *Ponmudi, Kallar, Neyyar and the Peppara wildlife sanctuary.*
- **Morphology** - Exhibits strong dimorphism, with males featuring uniquely shaped hamules and female displaying jet black bodies with yellow triangular spots.



- **Habitat -** Endemic to Southern and central Western Ghats, with known populations in forest landscapes of Kerala and Karnataka.
- **Distribution -** Lowland rainforests to mid-elevation evergreen and deciduous forests between 50 m and 1,100 m above sea level.
- **Breeding -** The new species breeds in phytotelmata, which are small pools of water in

tree holes.

- **Significance -** Indicator of forest health, stressing habitat conservation's broader ecological benefits.
- Emphasizes the importance of conserving forest microhabitats like tree holes, which serve as critical breeding sites.

Reference

The Hindu| Lyriothemis Abrahami

