

## 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](#)

