

## Macratria durrelli

*Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Species in news*

### Why in News?

*A new species of beetle named in honour of Gerald Durrell has been found in Madagascar.*

- It is a newly described species of **ant-like flower beetle**.
- **Family** - Anthicidae
- **Honour** - It was named in 2025 to honour the renowned **British naturalist Gerald Durrell**, reflecting his deep connection to Madagascar's conservation legacy.
- This beetle joins several other species already named after Durrell, including
  - *Salanoia durrelli* (a carnivoran from Madagascar) and
  - *Centrolene durrellorum* (a glassfrog from Ecuador).
- **Habitat** - It is found in Madagascar, a country central to Durrell's conservation work.
- **Ecological Role** - Like other Anthicidae, these beetles are **small, ant-like**, and often found in leaf litter, flowers, or sandy habitats, playing roles in decomposition and pollination.



- **Significance** - It expands knowledge of Madagascar's insect fauna, which is highly endemic and honours Gerald Durrell, who championed wildlife conservation and founded the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust.

### Key facts about genus Macratria

- **Appearance & Movement** - These beetles have a constricted neck and narrow posterior end of the pronotum, which, combined with their active, short-legged gait,

gives them an appearance and movement similar to ants.

- **Diversity & Habitat** - The genus *Macratria* contains over 320 species ***found on every continent except Antarctica***, with a high concentration in tropical regions.
- **Diet** - Adult and larval antlike flower beetles are typically ***omnivorous***, feeding on small arthropods, pollen, fungi, and vegetative debris.

## References

1. [Natural History Museum | \*Macratria durrelli\*](#)
2. [Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust | Gerald Durrell](#)

