# Macratria durrelli

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## 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



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