

Malleco Spiny-chest Frog (*Alsodes vittatus*)

Prelims - General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change.

Mains - GS III | Conservation.

Why in News?

Researchers discovered a rare amphibian, once thought to be extinct has resurfaced in Chile, South America recently.

- *Alsodes vittatus* is a rare small frog known is **endemic to Chile, America.**
- **First described by** - The German-born naturalist **Rudolph Amandus Philippi** in 1902 (based on specimens collected in 1893).
- **Habitat** - Limited, in isolated mountain streams of Chile.
- **Appearance** - Adult males ranged from light brown with yellow and green hues to olive brown, while some juveniles showed darker brown colors.
- **Distinctive feature** - A yellowish stripe running the length of its back.
- In some individuals, this stripe was prominent, while in others, it was completely absent.
- The *Alsodes vittatus* populations were found to be genetically close to *Alsodes neuquensis*, a species previously known only from Argentina.
- **Conservation Status** - Despite significant threats to the species, researchers have suggested reevaluating the frog's conservation category from Critically Endangered to Endangered.
- **Threats** - Deforestation, the expansion of livestock grazing, invasive species like introduced trout (which may prey on tadpoles), and the looming dangers of climate change.



Reference

[Daily Galaxy | Alsodes Vittatus](#)

