

Narrow-Banded Rain snake

Prelims - Current events of National and International Importance | Bio-diversity.

Why in News?

Recently, Mizoram university and Guwahati based biodiversity conservation group, Help Earth, have recorded a new species of rain snake.

- **Scientific name** - *Smithophis leptofasciatus*.
 - **Genus** - It is the third species in the genus, *Smithophis* to have been recorded from the northeastern State
 - **Nomenclature** - *Leptofasciatus* is a Greek and Latin hybrid, meaning 'narrow-banded', refers the snake's distinctive dorsal markings.
- **Another name** - Ruahrul in Mizoram.
- **Family** - Natricidae.
- **Size** - Small sized snake, reach up to 32 cm.
- **Morphology** - Predominantly shiny dark or black, interspersed with distinct, narrow, creamish-white or yellowish-lime transverse bands, each covering only one or two dorsal scales.



- **Habitat** - Semi-aquatic, close to small streams under leaf litter, and beneath rocks or decaying logs.
- **Distribution** - Tropical wet montane and tropical semi-evergreen forests at elevations ranging from approximately 900-1,200 m in Mizoram, India. Endemic to tropical forest

in Mizoram.

- **Behavioural traits** - It is ***nocturnal*** and most commonly spotted during the monsoon season.
- **Reproduction** - A gravid female observed in captivity laid 6 eggs, providing rare reproductive data.
- **Significance** - The new species reinforces Mizoram's importance as a biodiversity hotspot.

References

1. [The Hindu| New Species Rain Snake](#)
2. [Taprobanica| Smithophis leptofasciatus](#)

