Neoloboptera Peninsularis - New Cockroach Species

Prelims: *Current events of National and International Importance | Biodiversity & Conservation*

Why in News?

Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have identified a new cockroach species, Neoloboptera peninsularis, in Pune, Maharashtra.

- **Discovery Context** – Discovered in the Deccan Peninsular in Nathachiwadi village, Pune district, Maharashtra
- It is found among palm shrubs and dry leaf litter near farmland.
- The species is endemic to India.
- **Scientific Name-** Neoloboptera peninsularis.
- **Genus –** *Neoloboptera*.
- **Global Context–** 6 species reported.
    - **In India -** Only 3 species recorded — 1865, 1995, and now *N. peninsularis* (2025 discovery, reported in 2026).
- Highlights overlooked diversity in the Deccan Peninsula.
- **Features – Body -** Glossy, yellowish-brown with fully developed wings.
- **Unique Traits –** Asymmetrical cerci (paired appendages at rear) and whip-like male genital component. Asymmetrical sub-genital plate with lateral margin inflexed on right side (ventral view). Denser setae at apex.
- Superficially like *N. chakrabortyi*, but distinguished by reproductive structures.
- **Significance – Scientific -** First cockroach species in India identified using DNA sequencing.
- **Taxonomic** - Expands genus *Neoloboptera* diversity in India.
- **Conservation -** Suggests multiple potential new species in the region.

Reference

NDTV | Cockroach



SHANKAR
IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering