

## New Aquatic Beetle Species

**Prelims:** Current events of national and international importance | Environment

### Why in News?

Recently, Researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and collaborating institutions have discovered 3 new species of aquatic beetles from freshwater habitats in Telangana and Uttar Pradesh.

- **Common Name** - Beetle.
- **Family** - Hydrophilidae (aquatic scavenger beetles).
- **Genus** - *Amphiops*, Adapted to shallow freshwater ecosystems like ponds, wetlands, and vegetated substrates.
  - ***Amphiops hyderabadii*** - Found in a seasonal pond in Hyderabad, Telangana.
  - ***Amphiops kinnerasani*** - Collected from a roadside pond inside Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary, Telangana.
  - ***Amphiops sandi*** - Discovered in Sandi Bird Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh.



*Amphiops hyderabadii*



*Amphiops kinnerasani*



*Amphiops sandi*

- **Distinct Traits** - Each species shows unique body structures, punctuation patterns, and reproductive features.
- **Genetic Divergence** - COI mitochondrial DNA barcoding revealed 7-17%

divergence, confirming them as distinct evolutionary lineages.

*COI Gene Sequencing (Cytochrome c Oxidase I gene) - Standard DNA barcoding method using a short section of the to identify and differentiate animal species.*

## **Reference**

[New Indian Express | New Aquatic Beetle Species](#)

