

## New Damselflies from Arunachal Pradesh & Nagaland

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

### Why in News?

Recently, a Mumbai-based doctor and wildlife researchers discovered 7 new species with the findings published in the journal *Zootaxa*.

- Damselflies are an Odonate species within the suborder Zygoptera.

*Dragonflies and damselflies constitute the insect order Odonata, and are collectively known as odonates. These predatory, amphibious insects are known for their aquatic larvae and terrestrial, winged adult stages.*

### • Scientific Names

- *Calicnemia ardena* (Fiery Oread)
- *Calicnemia Arunachala* (Broad-striped Oread)
- *Calicnemia flavovittata* (Yellow-striped Oread)
- *Calicnemia mimumkoa* (Epsilon Oread)
- *Calicnemia naga* (Tiger Oread)
- *Calicnemia rubromacula* (Red-spotted Oread)
- *Coeliccia magna* (Greater Sylvan)

### • Genus -

- *Calicnemia*
- *Coeliccia*

- **Discovery** - With these discoveries, ***India now hosts 14 species of the genus Calicnemia***, making it a global hotspot for the genus.
- **Habitat** - Freshwater habitats, forest streams, and hill habitats.
- **Distribution** - Mainly discovered in the Upper Siang district, Arunachal Pradesh and Some records from Nagaland
- **Key Characteristics** - Usually slenderer, with eyes separated and wings folded together along the body at rest.

- **Key Identification**

- Fiery Oread has orange spots on its head.
- Broad-striped Oread has broad stripes on the thorax.
- Yellow-striped Oread for its yellow stripes on the thorax.
- Epsilon Oread for 'e'-shaped genitalia
- Tiger Oread for its yellow and black bands on its face.
- Red-spotted Oread has a red spot on its abdomen.
- Coeliccia magna is the largest size in Indian Sylvans.

- **Variation** - Scientists identified the species by studying the shape of a special male reproductive part called the **genital ligula**, which helps distinguish different damselfly species.

- **Unique split filaments** - Two species (*C. ardena* and *C. rubromacula*) have short, split reproductive filaments, which led researchers to create a ***new group called the "ardena group."***

- **Diet** - Feed on insects like mosquitoes, flies, midges, moths, and butterflies, often catching them mid-air.

- **Threat** - Damselflies' life cycle depends on clean water habitats.

- **Ecological Significance** - Odonate species are known as ***ecological bioindicators*** of healthy, clean wetlands.

- Highlights the rich biodiversity of Northeast India

- Odonates helps to control populations of other insects, including mosquitoes.

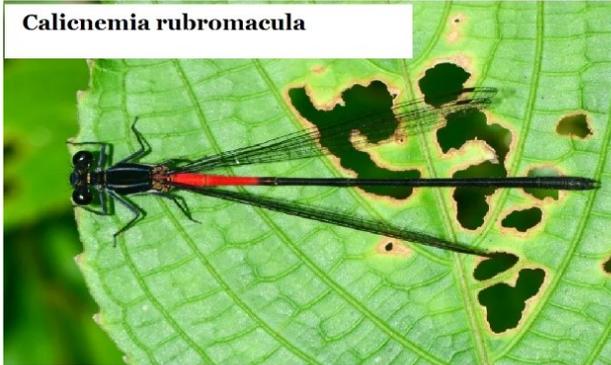
**Calicnemia mimumkoa**



**Coeliccia magna**



**Calicnemia rubromacula**



**Calicnemia arunachala**



**Calicnemia naga**



**Calicnemia flavovittata**



## References

1. [Midday | New Damselfly Species Discovered in Arunachal Pradesh](#)
2. [EastMojo | New Damselfly Species Discovered](#)