

New Damselfly Species (*Lestes paloti*)

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Environment

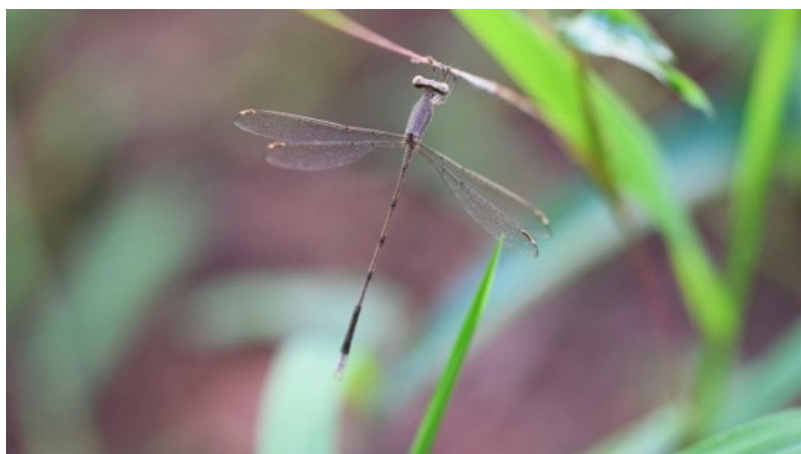
Why in News?

Recently, A team of odonatologists has discovered a new spreadwing damselfly species, from the Western Ghats of Kerala.

- **Scientific Name** - *Lestes paloti*

1st new Lestes species in Western Ghats since 1929; 1st in India since 1987.

- **Genus** - *Lestes* (Spreadwing damselflies).
- **Nomenclature** - *Lestes paloti*, in honour of **Muhamed Jafer Palot**, Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)
- **Morphology** - Distinct male anal appendages and secondary genitalia, (similar to *Lestes nodalis* and *Lestes garoensis*).



- **Seasonal Colour Change** - Brown in dry season, bluish in monsoon.
- **Distribution** - Recorded in Kannur, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Malappuram, Palakkad, Ernakulam districts of Kerala.
- **Habitat** - Scrub vegetation around homesteads, laterite hillocks, often

away from open water bodies.



Reference

[The Hindu | Lestes paloti](#)