New Damselfly Species (Lestes paloti)

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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]

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