New Forester Moth Species (Mimeusemia kali)

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Why in News?

Recently, Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Pune, in collaboration with the Natural History Museum, London, have discovered a new forester moth species in Kali Tiger Reserve, Karnataka.

- **Common Name –** Forester moth.
- **Scientific Name –** *Mimeusemia kali* Kalawate & László, 2026
- **Genus –** *Mimeusemia* (forester moth group).
  - New addition to the genus Mimeusemia in nearly 30 years.
- **Family –** Noctuidae.
- **Distribution –** Western Ghats, Karnataka (Kali Tiger Reserve).
- **Global Context –** The genus now includes 30 taxa worldwide (23 species + 7 subspecies) and India hosts six species, including the new find.

Features

- **Activity –** Primarily day-active, some species also at dusk.
- **Distinct Traits –** Unique physical characteristics, reproductive

structures, and genetic features.

- **Confirmation –** Phylogenetic analyses validated it as a separate species.

Phylogenetic analyses – It is the study of an organism's evolutionary family tree using DNA and physical traits.

- **Ecological Role –** Moths act as pollinators, herbivores, and food sources for birds, bats, reptiles, and other animals.
- **Indicator Species –** Sensitive to environmental changes, useful for assessing ecosystem health.

Reference

TOI | New Moth

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