

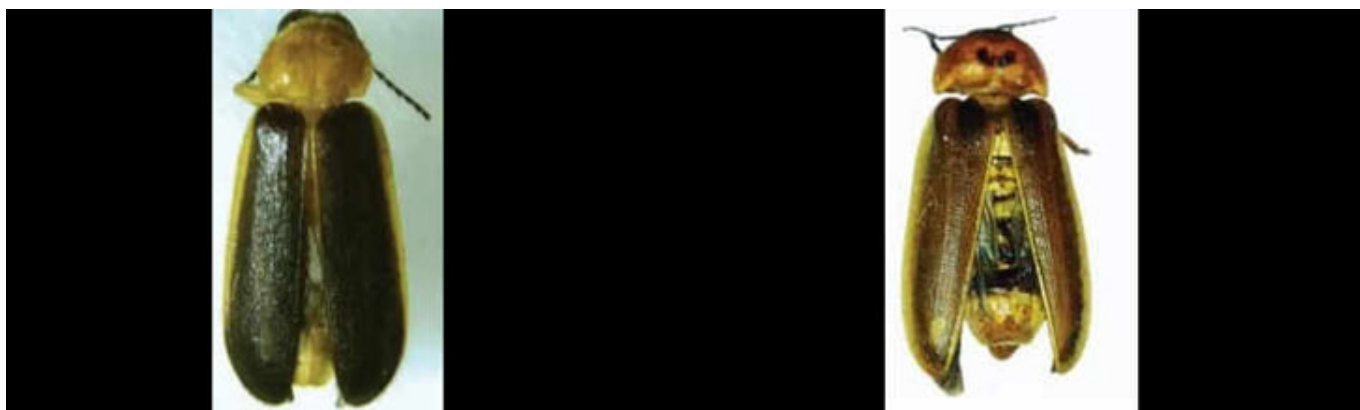
## New species of fireflies

*Prelims : Current events of National Importance | Conservation*

### Why in News?

*Bethune College, Kolkata assistant professor Srinjana discovered 2 new species of fireflies.*

- **Discovered species** - *Triangulara sunderbanensis* and *Medeopteryx bengalensis*.
- ***Triangulara sunderbanensis*** - It is found at the Sunderbans Sunderban Biosphere Reserve, a world heritage site.
- It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> species to be discovered in the world under the *Triangulara* genus. The other was recorded in Thailand.
- ***Medeopteryx bengalensis*** - It is found near Thakurpukur, Kolkata.
- It is the 1<sup>st</sup> discovery of a new species under the *Medeopteryx* genus in India. This is the 26<sup>th</sup> species of this genus to be discovered.
- **Threats**
  - Use of pesticides,
  - disappearance of habitats like water bodies and associated plants,
  - changes in the distribution of earthworms and molluscs that firefly larvae feed on,
  - encroachment of invasive species, and
  - exposure to automobile exhaust and heavy metals.
- The most significant factor affecting the firefly population is **artificial light pollution**.
- The light in fireflies is a cold light caused by an enzymatic reaction.
- The light they emit plays an important role in courtship signals during the mating season.
- When exposed to artificial light, their signal gets masked, which affects mating and their reproduction.
- The disappearance of the insect has also affected the food chain of frogs and birds. Fireflies also act as potential pollinators.



## Reference

[Times of India | New Species of Fireflies](#)

