

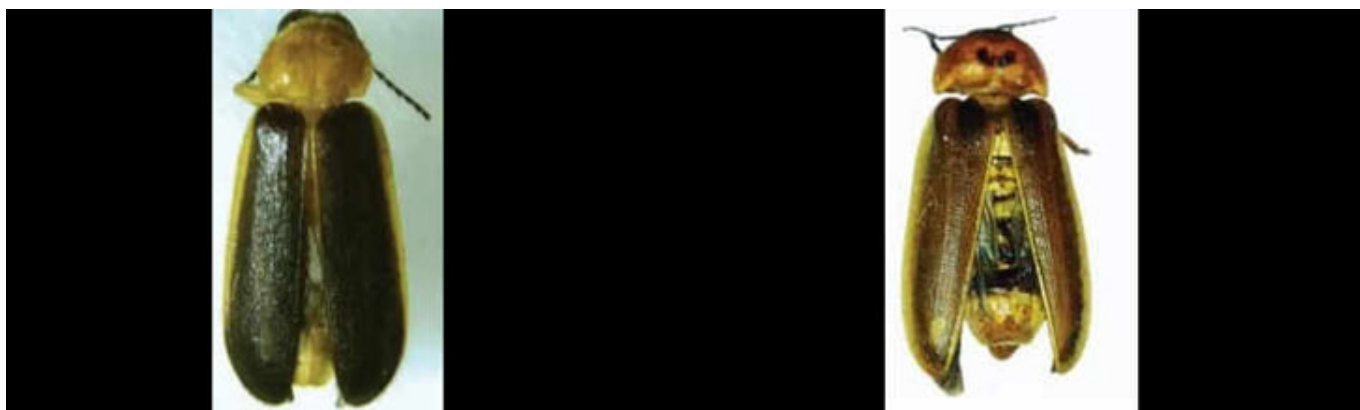
New species of fireflies

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 2nd 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 1st discovery of a new species under the *Medeopteryx* genus in India. This is the 26th 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](#)

