Newly discovered Slender Arm Frogs

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Conservation*

Why in News?

Recently, scientists from the University of Delhi have discovered two new slender-armed frogs from the remote mountain habitats of Arunachal Pradesh.

- The slender arm frog is a ***small-sized frog*** that tends to have more slender forelimbs.

	Soman's Slender Arm Frog	Mechuka Slender Arm Frog
Scientific name	Leptobrachium somani	Leptobrachium mechuka
Discovered in	Tiwarigaon and *named after Somanath in honour of the late journalist E. Somanath.*	It was first collected near Mechuka town in Arunachal Pradesh
Morphology	It is about ~55 mm, with a greyish-brown body with irregular light-grey markings and silver-grey to light-blue eyes.	It is about ~60 mm, with a uniformly brown body with a reddish tinge, and silvery-white eyes.
Family	Megophryidae	
Genus	Leptobrachium	
Habitat	• The Evergreen forests, adjoining grasslands, and stream banks. • Both species were observed in isolated mountain regions over multiple years.	
Endemism	• It is ***restricted to the Northern side*** of the Brahmaputra River in Arunachal Pradesh.	
Behaviour	• The Males call from stream banks during breeding. • Populations form along streams and grasslands.	

Conservation Status	• It has not yet been assessed or assigned a conservation category.

- **Biogeographical barrier -** All other known members of the same genus occur south of the Brahmaputra River.
- **Ecological Significance –** Highlights the exceptional amphibian diversity of the Himalaya biodiversity hotspot.



Soman's Slender Arm Frog Photo | Express



Mechuka Slender Arm Frog (*Leptobrachium mechuka*)

References

1. The New Indian Express | Two new frog species discovered.
2. The Hindu | Two new slender-armed frog species identified



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