

## 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
<b>Scientific name</b>	Leptobrachium somani	Leptobrachium mechuka
<b>Discovered in</b>	Tiwarigaon and <i>named after Somanath in honour of the late journalist E. Somanath.</i>	It was first collected near Mechuka town in Arunachal Pradesh
<b>Morphology</b>	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.
<b>Family</b>	Megophryidae	
<b>Genus</b>	Leptobrachium	
<b>Habitat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Evergreen forests, adjoining grasslands, and stream banks.</li> <li>Both species were observed in isolated mountain regions over multiple years.</li> </ul>	
<b>Endemism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is <b><i>restricted to the Northern side</i></b> of the Brahmaputra River in Arunachal Pradesh.</li> </ul>	
<b>Behaviour</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Males call from stream banks during breeding.</li> <li>Populations form along streams and grasslands.</li> </ul>	

## 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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