

Taningia silasii

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Species

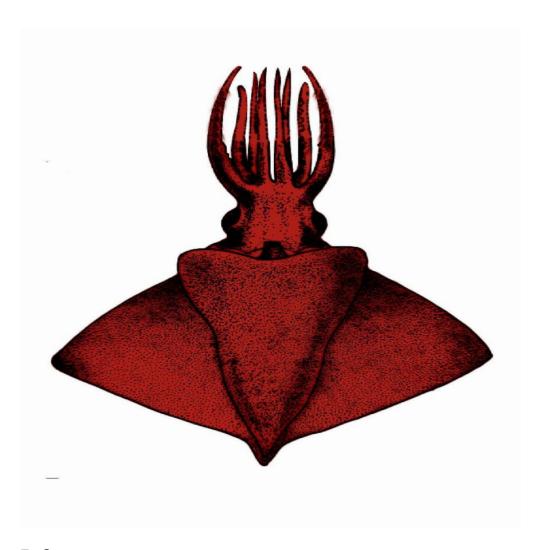
Why in news?

Researchers of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi, discovered a new species of deep-sea squid from the Arabian Sea.

- Scientific name Taningia silasii (Indian octopus squid)
- It is the 2^{nd} confirmed species of the globally rare genus Taningia, , $\underline{Taningia\ danae}$ (Atlantic waters) was the other known species.
- **Family** Octopoteuthidae (octopus squids)
- Location Arabian Sea, approximately 390 m depth off Kollam coast, Kerala.
- Honor Named after noted marine biologist E. G. Silas, former Director of CMFRI.
- **Size** It is 45 cm in length, whereas, the members of this family can also attain large sizes with the Atlantic species growing up to 2.3 metres in length and weighing approximately 61.4 kg.

Unique feature -

- No tentacles Adults of this species are known for their distinctive <u>absence of</u> <u>tentacles</u>, though they are true deep-sea squids (has eight arms and lacks the two long tentacles).
- **Morphological differences** From T. danae include having fewer gill lamellae (26 compared to 38-44), an oval-shaped funnel-mantle locking cartilage, and distinct lower beak morphology.
- **Genetic Divergence** DNA barcoding revealed 11% genetic difference from Atlantic Ocean lineages of Taningia danae, confirming it as a **distinct species**.



References

- 1. The Hindu | New deep-sea squid species discovered
- 2. The New Indian Express | New deep-sea squid species discovered
- 3. Research matters | Taningia silasii

