

Taningia silasii

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Species

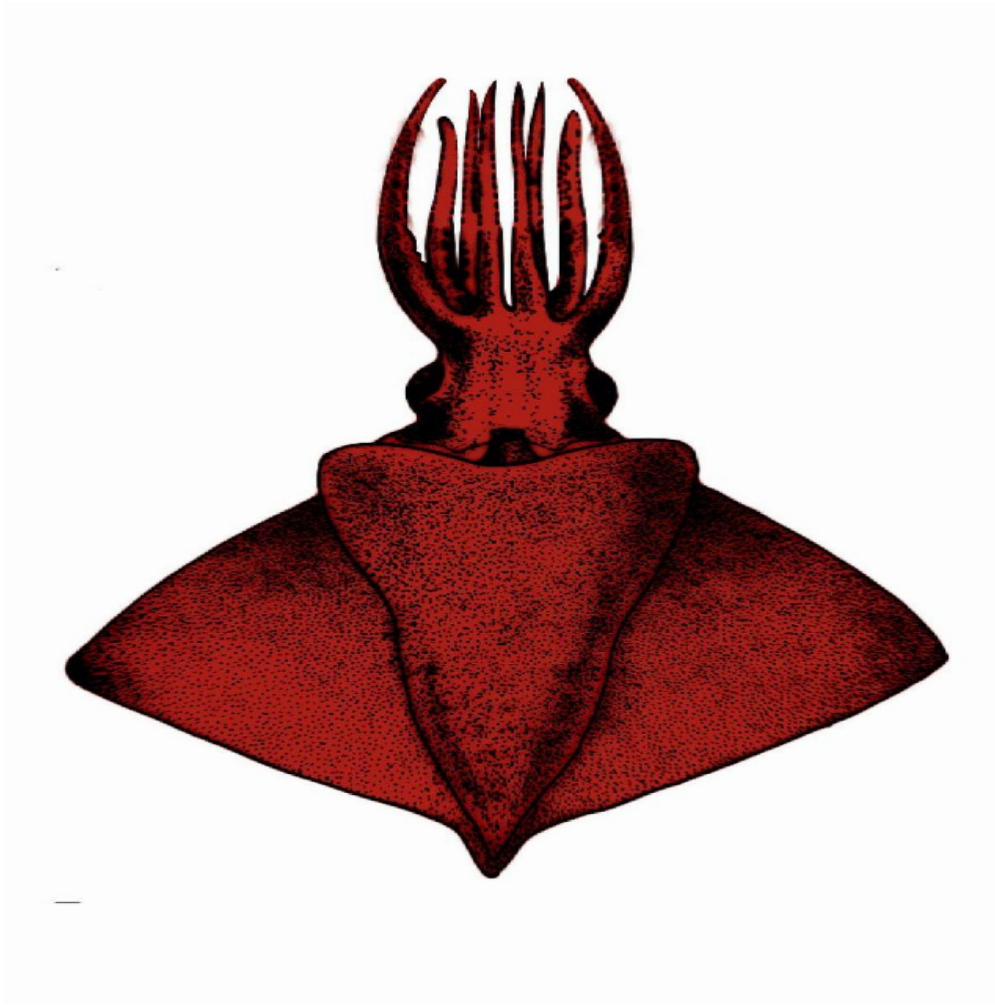
Why in news?

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 **2nd confirmed species** of the globally rare genus Taningia, , ***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 ***absence of tentacles***, 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](#)



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