

Theobaldius Konkanensis

Prelims – Current events of national and international importance| General issues on Environmental ecology & Bio-diversity.

Mains (GS III) – Conservation.

Why in News?

A team of researchers from India and U.K. have discovered a species of land snail from the Konkan region of Maharashtra and named it, 'Theobaldius konkanensis'.

- It is a new species of cyclophorid (any snail in the family Cyclophoridae) land snail.
- **Endemic to** -Northern Western Ghats.
- **Habitat** - Found on the forest floor among leaf litter and on moist, decaying branches in tropical evergreen and semi-evergreen forests.
- **Behaviour** - It is active during the day and night.
- **Distinction** - It differs from all other Indian Theobaldius species.
- This species also tends to have a more elevated spire than other Theobaldius species.
- **Appearance** - Snail's shell is thick, conoidally depressed, widely umbilicated with regularly increasing whorls, corneous **yellow in colour with brown striations**, collabrally striated periostracum that wears off in patches.



- **Distribution** - Theobaldius currently numbers 20 species and were distributed in India (9 species), Sri Lanka (11 species) and Sumatra (1 species) island in Indonesia.
 - **Species in India** - T. nivicola and T. orites - North-east India.
 - T. anguis, T. deplanatus, T. maculosus, T. ravidus, T. stenostoma, and T. tristis - endemic to the Western Ghats;
 - T. annulatus - occurs in both Sri Lanka and the Western Ghats.
- **Mating** - Most of the operculate land snails have separate sexes and **majority of land snails are hermaphrodite** (having both sex).
- Land snail and slug breed only in rainy season. They reproduce by cross-fertilisation as well as self-fertilisation.

- **Lifespan** - 2 to 7 years.
- **Significance** - Land snails are excellent bioindicators and are susceptible to climatic fluctuations.

Reference

[The Hindu | Theobaldius konkanensis](#)

