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 qin 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

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