

Bascanichthys chepakakiensis

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Bascanichthys chepakakiensis Latest News

Recently, marine scientists have discovered a new species of snake eel and officially named *Bascanichthys chepakakiensis*.

About *Bascanichthys chepakakiensis*

- It is a new **species of snake eel discovered in Kakinada fishing harbour in Andhra Pradesh.**
- The specific name, **chepakakiensis**, is a combination of two words from the regional Telugu language: chepa, which means "fish," and "kaki, a shortened nickname for Kakinada.
- It is the only **second time a species of this snake-eel genus** has been described from Indian waters.

Features of *Bascanichthys chepakakiensis*

- It has a **distinct bicoloured body.**
- It has a **noticeably shorter snout**, a different tooth arrangement in its jaws, and fewer vertebrae before its anal fin.

- It also possesses **incredibly tiny, flap-like pectoral fins** that are barely visible.

What are Snake eels?

- Snake eels are **members of the family Ophichthidae**, and are named for their snake-like appearance
- **Habitat:** These eels mainly live in sandy areas in shallow seas, however some live in depths to 800m.
- **Distribution:** They are found **in both tropical and temperate waters** in oceans around the world.
- The snake eel **uses its tail to burrow backward** into the sea bottom, creating a protective burrow.

Source: RM

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/bascanichthys-chepakakiensis/>

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