

Eechathalakenda incognita

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Eechathalakenda incognita Latest News

A team of scientists recently discovered a new fish species named Eechathalakenda incognita from Western Ghats of Kerala.

About Eechathalakenda incognita

- It is a **new species of fish** belonging to the **cyprinid subfamily Torinae**.
- It was discovered from various **streams inside the Periyar Tiger Reserve, Kerala**.
- The **genus Eechathalakenda** was originally established in 1999 for a **solitary, enigmatic fish species** first described in **1941** from the Pamba River in Kerala.
- This newly described species had been **confused with Eechathalakenda ophicephala for the last 70 years**.
 - However, it is **visually and genetically distinct** from Eechathalakenda ophicephala.
 - While **E. ophicephala** sports **rhomboid-shaped scales**, the **new species** features **circular scales near its upper body**, alongside a **unique dark lateral stripe**, a different count of fin rays, and a

substantial 4.9%-5.3% genetic variation.

- Their **geographic distributions** are **exceptionally narrow**; **E. ophicephala** is strictly confined to **Pamba river headwaters** over 1,000 metres above sea level, while **E. incognita** is isolated to specific **fast-flowing, rocky streams** inside the **Periyar Tiger Reserve**.
- **E. incognita** is the **ninth point-endemic fish species (restricted to a single location in the world)** to be identified **within the Periyar Tiger Reserve**.

Source: TH

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