

Hippocampus amandavinentae

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Hippocampus amandavinentae Latest News

Scientific studies recently identified a new species of seahorse named *Hippocampus amandavinentae*, which was previously misidentified as *Hippocampus histrix*.

About *Hippocampus amandavinentae*

- It is a new species of **seahorse**.
- It was recorded off the southwest **coast of Kerala**.
- This discovery has made a total of 5 seahorse species discovered from the Kerala coast.

What is a Seahorse?

- A seahorse is a **marine fish** belonging to the **genus Hippocampus** and **related to pipefishes**.
- There are at least **50 species** of seahorses.
- Distribution: They are found in **temperate and tropical waters** around the world.
- **Habitat:**

- Typically found in **shallow waters** with **abundant vegetation** such as **coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds,** and **estuaries**.
- They are usually found **clinging to plants or corals with their tails**.
- They are unique in appearance, with their **horselike head, prehensile tail,** independently **moving eyes,** and **brood pouch**.
- They have long, tubular snouts and small, **toothless mouths**.
- Their **bodies** are covered with **consecutive rings of bony plates**.
- Seahorses vary in size, ranging in length from about 2 to 35 cm.
- Seahorses are rather immobile, **swimming more slowly** than other fishes.
- **When swimming** they **maintain a vertical position** and **propel themselves** forward **using a soft-rayed dorsal fin**. They use pectoral fins located on the side of the head to maneuver.
- **To move up and down,** they **adjust the volume of air** in a **tiny pocket inside their body,** called a '**swim bladder**'.
- Experts in **camouflage,** they can change color to blend into their surroundings and avoid danger.
- They are **carnivores**. They eat small crustaceans and invertebrates.

News: TH

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/hippocampus-amandavinctae/>

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