

What is *Cnemaspis Vangoghi*?

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About *Cnemaspis Vangoghi*

- It is a new species of lizard discovered from the Southern Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu.
- *Cnemaspis vangoghi* is named for Dutch painter Vincent Van Gogh (1853–1890), as the striking colouration of the new species is reminiscent of one of his most iconic paintings, *The Starry Night*.
- It is described as a small-sized gecko, reaching up to 3.4 cm in length.
- It has a distinctive yellow head and forebody, adorned with light blue spots on the back.
- This lizard prefers living among rocks and can occasionally be found on buildings and trees.
- Alongside *Cnemaspis vangoghi*, another species named *Cnemaspis sathuragiriensis* was identified, named after its type locality, the Sathuragiri Hills.
- Both species inhabit low-elevation, deciduous forests within the Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger Reserve, adding to the five previously known endemic vertebrates of the region.
- These diurnal creatures are mainly active during the cooler hours of early morning and evening, predominantly found on rocks.
- Their restricted localities present an intriguing case of micro-endemism in low-elevation species.
- Micro-endemism refers to a phenomenon in ecology and biogeography where a species or a group of species are restricted to a very small geographic area, often on the scale of a few square kilometers or even less.

Q1) What are Deciduous Forests?

A deciduous forest is a biome dominated by deciduous trees which lose their leaves seasonally. The Earth has temperate deciduous forests, and tropical and subtropical deciduous forests, also known as dry forests.

Source: [A starry night: New lizard species discovered in India named after Van Gogh](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/cnemaspis-vangoghi/>

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