

Beddome's Cat Skink

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Beddome's Cat Skink Latest News

A biodiversity survey has, for the first time, recorded the presence of Beddome's cat skink (*Ristella beddomii*) at the Aralam and Kottiyoor Wildlife sanctuaries.

About Beddome's Cat Skink

- It is also called Beddome's **ristella**.
- Beddome's cat skink is named after British **naturalist Richard Henry Beddome**, the species is considered rare and endemic to the Western Ghats region.
- **Appearance:** It is a small **reddish brown lizard** with retractile claws and bicarinate scales.
- **Distribution:** It is found in the **forests of the Western Ghats** at an altitude of 400-1,300 metres.
- **Reproduction:** It is an **oviparous species** and egg laying coincides with the southwestern monsoons.

Key Facts about Skink

- It is the common name for the **lizards that comprise the family Scincidae**.

- It is a type of reptile that has been **around since the time of the dinosaurs**.
- It is typically smooth and shiny with small or rudimentary legs.
- They are mostly **secretive ground dwellers or burrowers**.
- **Behavior:** Skinks are **highly alert, agile and** fast moving and actively forage for a variety of insects and small invertebrates.
- **Habitat:** They can be found in a variety of **habitats, from deserts to rainforests**, and are well-known for their **ability to camouflage** with their surroundings.
- **Distribution:** These are represented throughout most of the world but are especially diverse in **Southeast Asia and its associated islands**, the deserts of Australia, and the temperate regions of North America.

Source: TH

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