

New Marine Worm Species

February 7, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



New Marine Worm Species Latest News

Recently, researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have uncovered two new marine worm species (polychaetes) namely *Namalycastis solenotognatha* and *Nereis dhritiae* from the Nereidid family coasts of West Bengal.

About New Marine Worm Species

- ***Namalycastis solenotognatha***
 - It derives its name from the **Greek words “solenotos”** (channeled) and “gnatha” (jaw).
 - The “**channeled jaw**” refers to its **unusual jaw structure** with a large number of canals that emerge **from the pulp cavity**.
 - **Habitat:** Ideal conditions for its survival **are extreme environments, sulfide-rich, foul-smelling mudflats**, and they are mostly found on **decomposing mangrove wood** and **hardened clay**.

About *Nereis Dhritiae*

- It is named after the first woman **director of ZSI, Dhriti Banerjee**.
- **Habitat:** This species was found living **inside wooden dock piles** on sandy beaches, which are submerged during times of high tide.

Significance of Nereidid worms

- They help maintain **coastal health**, and they play a **major role in nutrient cycling** and **sediment aeration**.
- These species of marine worms were found in areas that were heavily impacted by human **activities and subject to pollution**.
- These worms can **serve as vital bioindicators** and help in monitoring coastal health.

Source: IE

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