

Limnonectes motijheel

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Limnonectes motijheel Latest News

Indian scientists recently discovered a rare, fanged mud-nesting frog, Limnonectes Motijheel, in Namdapha Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh.

About Limnonectes motijheel

- It is a **new species of frog**.
- It was discovered from **Namdapha Tiger Reserve** in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- It is **named after Motijheel Lake**, known for its rich amphibian diversity.
- It **belongs to** a group commonly called **Fanged Frogs**, named for **small, fang-like projections in the lower jaw of the males**. Scientists say this feature may **aid feeding or territorial behaviour**.
 - These frogs are **found across South and Southeast Asia** and are known for their unusual breeding habits.
- The new species has been placed within the **genus Limnonectes**, which now counts **six known species in India**.

- Unlike most frogs that lay eggs in water or on leaves, this species **builds a nest out of mud beneath leaf litter on the forest floor**. This is a behaviour not previously recorded in this group from India.
- The frog also has a **distinct appearance**. The amphibian has a **dark-brown line running between its eyes**, an **inverted “V”-shaped ridge along its back**, and **broken folds running down either side of its body**.
- **Size:**
 - Frogs of the *Limnonectes* group are typically **medium-sized** amphibians.
 - They generally range between **2.3 to 3.5 centimetres** as an adult.

Key Facts about Namdapha Tiger Reserve

- Namdapha, a **national park and tiger reserve**, lies on the **international border between India and Myanmar** within Changlang District in the state of **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- It is located at the **junction** of the **Indian Sub-Continent Bio-geographic region** and the **Indo-China Bio-geographic Region**.
- It is **nestled between** the **Dapha Bum ridge of the Mishmi Hills** of the northeastern Himalayas **and the Patkai ranges**.
- It has a **common boundary** with **Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary (Arunachal Pradesh)**.
- **River:** The **Namdapha River** (a **tributary of the Noa-Dihing River**) flows right across in a north-south direction of this reserve, and hence the name Namdapha has been given.
- **Vegetation:** It consists of **Northern Tropical Evergreen Forest**, North Indian Tropical Moist Deciduous Forests, **East Himalayan Moist Temperate Forests**, and **Moist Alpine Scrub Forests**.
- **Flora:**
 - It consists of species like **Pinus merkusi** and **Abies delavayi** being **exclusive** to the park.
 - It is home to the **Blue Vanda**, which is a **rare and endangered orchid**.
 - It also consists of **medicinal plants** like **Mishimi Teeta** (*Coptis teeta*), which is used by the local tribes to treat different types of diseases.
- **Fauna:**
 - **Elephants, Himalayan Black Bear**, Himalayan Sun Bear, Hoolock Gibbon (only ape in India), **Slow Loris**, etc.
 - It is the **only park in the world** to have the **four feline species of big cats**, namely the **Tiger** (*Panthera tigris*), **Leopard** (*Panthera pardus*), **Snow Leopard** (*Panthera uncia*), and **Clouded Leopard** (*Neofelis nebulosa*) and numbers of lesser cats.

Source: **MC**

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/limnonectes-motijheel/>

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