



New Species in Andaman

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Why in News

Recently a group of scientists has reported a new genus of treefrog from the **Andaman Islands** called **Striped Bubble-nest frog**.



Key Points

- **Biological name:** *Rohanixalus vittatus*
The new genus '**Rohanixalus**' is **named** after **Sri Lankan taxonomist** Rohan Pethiyagoda.
- Striped Bubble-nest frog belongs to the genus of the Old World treefrog family **Rhacophoridae**.
- This is the first report of a tree frog species from the Andaman Islands.

- **Bodily Features**

- Small and slender body (**2-3 cm long**).
- A **pair of contrastingly coloured lateral lines** on either side of the body. Minute brown speckles scattered throughout the upper body.
- Light green-coloured eggs laid in **arboreal** bubble-nests.
Arboreal means living in trees or related trees
- They are also known as Asian Glass Frog or see through frogs.
While the general background coloration of most glass frogs is primarily **lime green**, the abdominal skin of some members of this family is **translucent** (allowing light to pass through). The internal viscera, including the heart, liver, and gastrointestinal tract, **are visible through this translucent skin, hence the common name.**
- The genus has several unique behavioural traits:
 - **Maternal egg attendance:**
 - The female (mother) attends the egg clutches until hatching and assists in release of the tadpoles into the water.
 - During the **first three days** after egg laying, the **female sits over the eggs** and produces a **gelatinous secretion** with which she glazes (covers) the egg mass through **clockwise movement of her legs**. This behaviour provides **necessary moisture to the eggs laid on exposed leaf surfaces** and protects them from **insect predation.**
 - **Community egg attendance:**
A large number of egg clutches (**over 50**) of different developmental stages on a single leaf or plant. **Multiple females** usually attend such clutches in a behaviour termed as **'community' egg attendance.**
- Frequent **male-male combats** involving pushing, kicking and dislodging to **mate with a female.**

Source: TH