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Georissa Mawsmiensis: A Micro Snail Species

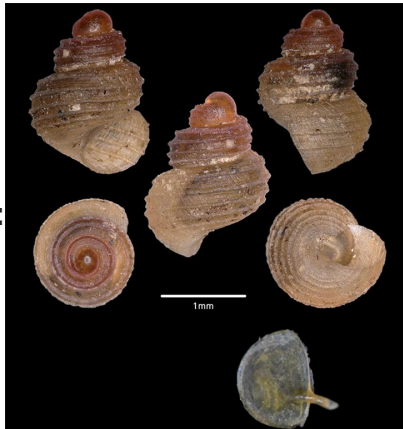
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Why in News

Recently, a micro snail species named *Georissa mawsmiensis* has been discovered in **Mawsmi Cave in Meghalaya**.

Key Points

- **About:**



- The new species is unique from *Georissa sarrita* (a member of the same **genus discovered in 1851**) in its shell morphology, starting from shell size variation to the presence of **four very prominent spiral striations** (a minute groove, scratch) on body whorls of the shell.
- These spiral striations, which are counted from the suture to aperture in apertural view, are **seven in Georissa sarrita**.
- **Habitat:**

Georissa is found in soil or **subterranean habitats** in **lowland tropical forest** as well as **high altitude evergreen forests** or on **rock surfaces** rich in calcium.
- **Distribution:**

The members of the Georissa genus are widely distributed across and reported from **Africa, Asia**, and the **Pacific**. However, they are **confined to microhabitats consisting of limestone caves or karst landscapes** formed by the dissolution of limestone.

- **Threats:**

The **high tourist influx may pose a threat** to this micro snail species including other cave faunas.

Mawsmai Cave

- It is situated in the small village of Mawsmai, around four kilometres from **Cherrapunjee** (Sohra) in the East **Khasi Hills** district of Meghalaya.
- The term '**Mawsmai**' means '**Oath Stone**' in the **Khasi language**. The **Khasi people** use the local term '**Krem**' for the cave.
- Mawsmai cave is located at an altitude of 1,195 metres above sea level and is indirectly influenced by the **streams of the Kynshi river originating from the East Khasi Hills**.
- The **cave is famous for its fossils**, some which you can spot if you spend some time peering at the walls and formations inside.

Source: DTE