

Trigonopterus Corona

 drishtiias.com/printpdf/trigonopterus-corona

Why in News

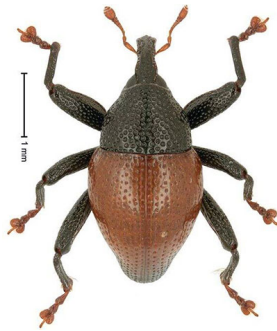
Recently, scientists have discovered a **new species of beetle named Trigonopterus corona on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi.**

It is not the only insect species to be named after the pandemic. In April 2021, a **new species of caddisfly** (a moth-like insect) was collected near a stream in Kosovo, and named ***Potamophylax coronavirus***.

Key Points

- It has been named on pandemic which reflects the large impact of the **Covid-19**

pandemic on this project.



The researcher had been studying this genus (*Trigonopterus*) for the past 15 years and was delayed because Covid-19 pandemic hit.

- *Trigonopterus* is a **hyperdiverse genus of flightless hidden-snout weevils** (*Cryptorhynchinae*) ranging over the **Indo-Australian-Melanesian archipelago**.
Weevils are often called **flour bugs** because that is where they are frequently found, they are a type of **beetle with an elongated snout**.
- The genus *Trigonopterus* originated in Northern Australia and rapidly diversified in New Guinea before colonizing Sulawesi and dispersing further west to Sundaland (a biogeographical area of south-eastern Asia).

Island of Sulawesi



- It is **one of the four Greater Sunda Islands of Indonesia**. It is a curiously shaped island with four distinct peninsulas that form **three major gulfs, Tomini (the largest) on the northeast, Tolo on the east, and Bone on the south**.

The island group features the islands of Java, Sumatra, Borneo, and Sulawesi.

- The island is highly mountainous, with some active volcanoes, but there are large plains on the southern peninsula and in the south-central part of the island on which **rice is grown**.
- The **highest peak is Mount Rantekombola, or Mario**, at 11,335 feet.

Source: IE