



Bamboo-Dwelling Bat

Why in News?

Recently, Scientists have discovered a new species of bamboo-dwelling bat near the [Nongkhyllam Wildlife Sanctuary](#).

What do we Need to Know about Newly Discovered Species?

- The new species of **bamboo-dwelling bat** has been named *Glischropus meghalayanus*.
 - **Bamboo-dwelling bats** are a particular kind of bat living in the internodes of bamboo with specialised morphological characters that help them to adapt to the life inside a bamboo plant.
- It is **small in size and has a dark brown colour** with sulphur yellow belly.
- The present discovery is the **first report of a thick-thumbed bat** not only from India but also from South Asia.



What are Thick-Thumbed Bats?

- This bat has typical **fleshy pads on the thumb and soles of feet** which aid them to crawl over smooth surfaces of bamboo internodes.
- Thick-thumbed bats of the **genus *Glischropus*** are currently composed of four recognized species from Southeast Asia.
 - *G. aquilus* is endemic to Sumatra, *G. javanus* is restricted to western Java, whereas *G. bucephalus* is widely distributed north to the Isthmus of Kra and *G. tylopus* is widespread south to this zoogeographic boundary.
- Earlier, a new species of thick-thumbed bat (Chiroptera: Vespertilionidae: Glischropus) from

Meghalaya, north-eastern India was discovered.

What are the Recent Discoveries of Bats from Meghalaya?

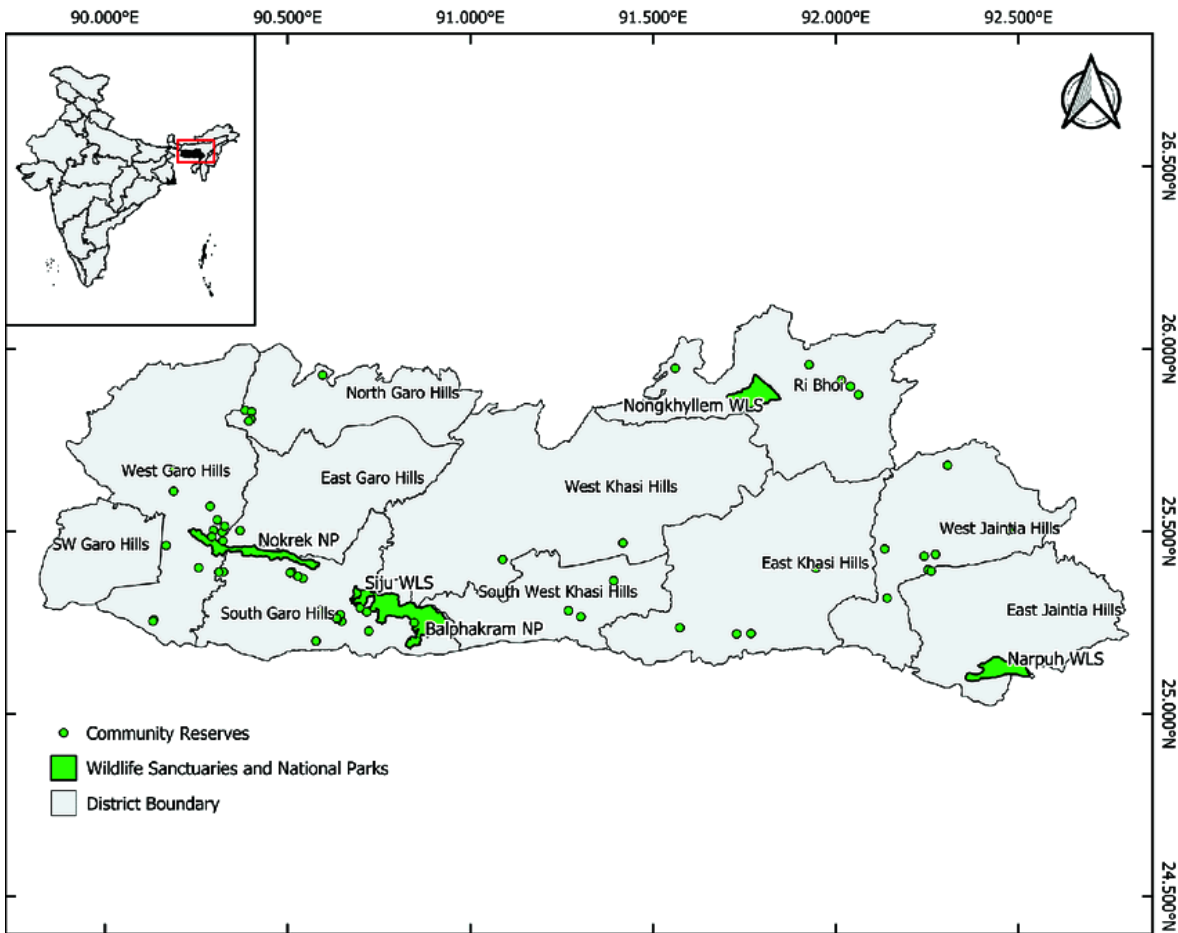
- From the same forested patches outside **Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary**, another species of **disk-footed bat Eudiscopus denticulus** was found which was a new record in India.
- In the past few years, **three bamboo-dwelling bats** have been reported from the area which highlights the ecological significance of the region.
 - Since the bamboo forest around the wildlife sanctuary has a rich bio-diversity there should be attempts to conserve it.

What is the Number of Bat Species in India?

- **Total Number:**
 - With this new discovery, the total number of bat species known from India stands at **131**.
- **Highest Bat Diversity:**
 - **Meghalaya** harbors **the highest bat diversity** in the country with **67 species**, which is about 51% of total bat species in the country.
 - Meghalaya, because of its **unique terrain, vegetation and climate condition**, was a haven for both flora and fauna.
 - The unique caves in the northeastern State provided roosting opportunities for a large number of bats.
 - There were a number of **cave-dwelling bats species from Meghalaya**, the most common being **Horseshoe bat and Leaf-nosed bats**.

Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary

- Situated in the Ri-Bhoi district near Lailad village and spread over an area of 29 sq. kms, Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the famous attractions of Meghalaya.
- The Sanctuary falls in the **Eastern Himalayan Global biodiversity hotspot**.
- The sanctuary supports different species of fauna such as Royal Bengal Tiger, [Clouded Leopard](#), [Indian Bison](#), and Himalayan Black Bear etc.
- Among the birds, the rare species which can be spotted here are Manipur Bush Quail, Rufous Necked Hornbill and Brown Hornbill.
- **Other Wildlife Sanctuary in Meghalaya:**
 - Siju Wildlife Sanctuary
 - Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary
 - Baghmara Pitcher Plant Sanctuary
 - [Nokrek National Park](#)



UPSC Civil Services, Previous Year Questions (PYQ)

Q. Recently, our scientists have discovered a new and distinct species of banana plant which attains a height of about 11 meters and has orange coloured fruit pulp. In which part of India has it been discovered? (2016)

- (a) Andaman Islands
- (b) Anaimalai Forests
- (c) Maikala Hills
- (d) Tropical rain forests of northeast

Ans: (a)

Exp:

- A new species of banana, *Musa idandamanensis* was discovered by a team of scientists from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) from a remote Krishna Nalah tropical rain forest on the Little Andaman Islands.
- Its flowers are cylindrical in shape compared to the conical shape of regular banana species.
- It is about 11 metres high, whereas the usual banana species is about three to four metres high.
- The species is edible and very sweet. The fruit pulp is orange in colour, distinctive from the white and yellow colour of regular bananas.
- Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

Source: TH

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/bamboo-dwelling-bat>