



New Species of Moray Eel

Why in News?

Researchers have recently discovered a new species of [Moray eel](#) off the Cuddalore coast (Tamil Nadu) and has been named after the state as *Gymnothorax tamilnaduensis*.



What are the Key Highlights of Discovery?

- This is the **first ever record of this genus, Gymnothorax, collected through an exploration survey** conducted along the coastal waters of Cuddalore.
- 4 specimens (total length 272-487 mm) were collected, and the species is notably different from other species of the genus Gymnothorax.
 - The distinction point is a series of lines of small dark spots present on the head and a single line of black spots on the midline of the body.
- The name of the species has been registered in ZooBank, the online registration system for the **International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN)**.

What are the Key Points about Moray Eel?

- Moray Eels **occur in all tropical and subtropical seas**, they live in **shallow water** among reefs and rocks.
- They are known for two types of jaws: one is regular (oral) jaws with big teeth and the second jaw is called **the pharyngeal jaw (which drags prey inside the eels stomach)**.
- Their [IUCN red list](#) status is **Least Concern (LC)**.
- Including the newly discovered species, **29 species of Gymnothorax have been documented in Indian waters so far.**

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

- Founded in 1895, ICZN is tasked to create, publish and periodically revise the **International Code of Zoological Nomenclature**.
- It provides and regulates a uniform system of zoological nomenclature ensuring that every animal has a unique and universally accepted scientific name.
- ICZN acts as adviser and arbiter for the zoological community by generating and disseminating information on the correct use of the scientific names of animals.

[Source: TH](#)

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