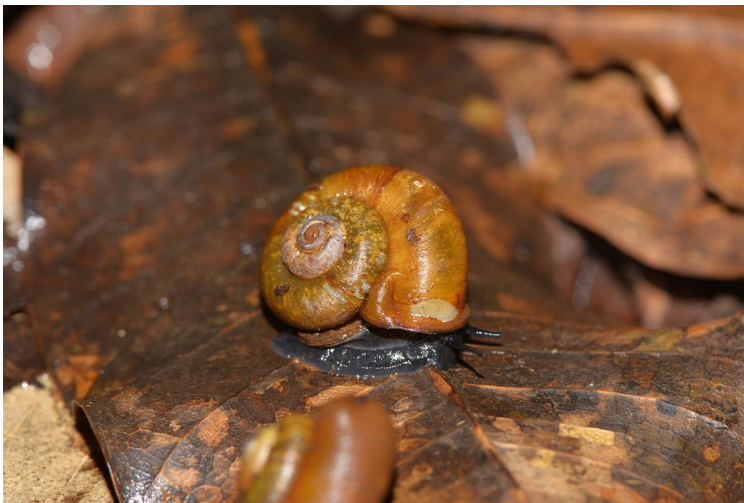




New Species of Land Snail in Maharashtra

Why in News?

A team of researchers from India and the UK has discovered a new species of [land snail](#) in Maharashtra's Konkan region and named it *Theobaldius konkanensis*.



Key Points

- **Research Publication and Team:**
 - Researchers published their findings in the **Molluscan Research journal** on 11th March 2025.
 - The study titled "**A new species of cyclophorid land snail from the coastal regions of Maharashtra**".
- **Endemic Status and Conservation Significance:**
 - The species is endemic to the northern [Western Ghats](#), a largely unexplored biodiversity hotspot.
 - Researchers emphasized the **snail's restricted distribution in Konkan**, calling for urgent conservation efforts to preserve its ecological niche.
- **Habitat and Behaviour:**
 - The snail prefers [tropical evergreen](#) and semi-evergreen forests.
 - Live snails were found from **June to September in leaf litter** and on damp branches; only shells were observed in other seasons.
 - The species is **active both day and night**, especially under shaded forest canopies.
- **Distinctive Morphological Traits:**
 - The species has a **thick, conoidally depressed, widely umbilicated shell with increasing whorls**.
 - It has a **yellowish-brown shell** with **black striations and unique operculum features**—triangular aperture notch, raised fold, and short spines.
 - Its **spire is more elevated** compared to other *Theobaldius* species.
- **Ecology and Reproductive Biology:**

- Snails are most active in the monsoon and are **important bioindicators sensitive to climate change.**
- Most land snails are **hermaphrodites**; some have separate sexes.
- Reproduction involves courtship, dart-shooting, and both self- and cross-fertilisation.
- Eggs are laid in soil or under litter; they hatch in 2-4 weeks. Lifespan ranges from 2 to 7 years.

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