

Mizoram apple snail

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In news— A team of researchers from Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bangalore, have discovered a new type of Apple snail.

About the snail-

- **Pila mizoramensis** is the **sixth member of the Pila genus from India** and the second species to inhabit hill streams.
- Pila is commonly known as Apple Snails.
- It is **currently found in only two localities in Mizoram**.
- It is **right coiled** and is a close relative of the Southeast Asian species, *Pila virescens*.
- It has a shell height and diameter of about 2.5 cm.
- Its **habitat has perennial waterfalls** and the snail was found among algae and semi-aquatic plants in the spray or splash zones of the waterfalls.
- Its locality has a temperature not exceeding 25 degrees Celsius and receives an annual rainfall of over 2500 mm.
- There are only two species of Pila from India which are restricted to streams and the other one **Pila saxea** is found in the northern Western Ghats.

About Apple snail-

- **Ampullariidae**, commonly named the apple snail, is a family of large **freshwater snails**.
- They are unusual because they **have both a gill and a lung** and are amphibious.
- They are probably of Gondwanan origin.
- They are exceptionally well adapted to tropical regions characterized by periods of drought alternating with periods of high rainfall.