

New species of bent-toed gecko found

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In news– A group of researchers has **discovered a new species of bent-toed gecko from Agasthyamalai hills in the Western Ghats.**

About the species-

- The species has been given the common name Aravind's ground gecko after noted malacologist N.A. Aravind.
- The new species, which has been **given the scientific name *Cyrtodactylus aravindi***, has been described based on its distinctness in the morphological and molecular DNA data.
- **This ground gecko has so far been found only at two locations, Muppaddal and Thuckalay**, in Kanyakumari district falling within the Agasthyamalai biosphere reserve in Tamil Nadu.

What are Geckos?

- **Geckos are reptiles and are found on all the continents except Antarctica.**
- These colorful lizards have adapted to habitats from rainforests, to deserts, to cold mountain slopes.
- Over a long period of time, geckos have developed special physical features to help them survive and avoid predators.
- **Gecko tails serve many purposes. They help balance their weight as they climb branches**, they act as fuel tanks to **store fat**, and as camouflage to help them disappear into their environment.
- Geckos are also able to **shed their tails if a predator grabs them.**
- **Most geckos are nocturnal, which means they are active at night**, but day geckos are active during the day and

nibble on insects, fruits, and flower nectar.

- Most geckos make noises such as chirping, barking, and clicking when they are defending their territory or attracting a mate.