

Omorgus Khandesh

February 17, 2023

In news– Omorgus Khandesh is the new beetle species has been discovered in India recently.

About Omorgus Khandesh-

- Omorgus Khandesh is **necrophagous and is, therefore, also called a keratin beetle.**
- During the decomposition of a body, blowflies are amongst the first ones to arrive in the early stages.
- Meanwhile, the final successional stage is with the arrival of the keratin feeders, thus their importance in forensic science.
- The bug was discovered by scientist Aparna Sureshchandra Kalawate who works with Zoological Survey of India, Western Regional Centre (WRC), Pune.
- The **beetle was found in the collections of WRC.**
- **The new species belongs to the Trogidae family.** With the addition of this new species, now there are a total of **14 extant species of this family in India.**
- The **beetles of this group are sometimes called hide beetles** as they tend to cover their body under the soil and hide.
- **They are not photogenic; they are usually black or grey and encrusted in dirt.** Their bumpy appearance is distinct, with short, dense setae all over the body.
- The new species is **morphologically most similar to Omorgus rimulosus.** The latter is redescribed and illustrated to enable accurate recognition of both species in the new paper.
- Omorgus Khandesh is **mainly associated with bird and mammal nests** or burrows and the details of their life histories are poorly known.
- **They feign death upon being disturbed and become motionless.**

- The keratin beetles are less studied in the Oriental region generally and India particularly as compared to the other part of the world.