

Spiny Horntail Dragonfly

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In news-Dragonfly enthusiasts have recorded the presence of Spiny Horntail, a rare dragonfly that was hitherto unseen in Kerala during a recent expedition to the Kottiyoor forests of Kannur.

About the Dragonfly-

- The species that **is known to be endemic to the Western Ghats** was discovered in Maharashtra earlier in 2022 in Sindhudurg district.
- Prior to their finding, the dragonfly genus *Burmagomphus* was represented by three species –
 - *B. cauvericus*.
 - *B. pyramidalis* and
 - *B. laidlawi*.
- While *B. laidlawi* is found throughout the Western Ghats, *B. cauvericus* is more restricted in its distribution.
- *B. pyramidalis* is found in the Western Ghats as well as in Peninsular India.
- All other species of the genus are found in the Western and Eastern Himalayas.
- **The new species can be separated from its congeners by the markings on the lateral thorax and peculiar shape of anal appendages.**