

Subdoluseps nilgiriensis

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In news- A new species of skink *Subdoluseps nilgiriensis* has been found from **Nilgiri hills, Tamil Nadu** (Western Ghats).

About Subdoluseps nilgiriensis:

- The reptile has a slender body of just about **7 cm** and is sandy brown in colour.
- Based on genetic studies, the new species is **closely related to *Subdoluseps pruthi* that is found in parts of the Eastern Ghats.**
- This species is **only the third skink species discovered from mainland India in the last millennium.**
- Its **discovery in a dry deciduous area**, shows that even the dry zones of India are home to unrealised skink diversity which needs to be further explored.
- Hence the notion that *S. pruthi* group skinks are restricted to the Eastern Ghats is falsified.
- Skinks are **non-venomous**.
- Their inconspicuous limbs make them resemble snakes.
- Most skinks are **diurnal** and are usually secretive in their habits.
- Most of the species are placed under the data-deficient category.
- *Subdoluseps nilgiriensis* is currently **considered a vulnerable species.**
- **Potential threats** include seasonal forest fires, housing constructions, brick kiln industries in the area and rapid urbanisation.