

Cliffside Bambootail (*Phylloneura rupestris*)

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Cliffside Bambootail (*Phylloneura rupestris*)

The new species of damselfly, named Cliffside Bambootail, was discovered in the Ponmudi hills located in the Thiruvananthapuram district of Kerala.



[Ref: The Hindu]

About Cliffside Bambootail (*Phylloneura rupestris*):

- It belongs to the group of damselflies known as bambootails.
- It is characterised by its **long abdomen resembling bamboo stalks**.
- Prior to this discovery, the genus **Phylloneura** was considered monotypic, with a single species known as the **Myristica Bambootail** (*Phylloneura westermanni*).
 - Myristica Bambootail is **endemic to the Western Ghats** and recorded only in the area between the Nilgiris Hills and Sharavathi Valley, north of the **Palghat Gap**.
 - It is classified as **near-threatened** according to the IUCN Red List.

Habitat and Behavior:

- **Cliffside Bambootail** exhibits distinct behaviour by laying eggs in **moss beds** in seasonal rills that flow over rock cliffs.
- This behaviour contrasts with the **Myristica Bambootail**, which lays eggs on the surface roots of riparian trees.

About Ponmudi hills:

- Ponmudi hills are part of the **Agasthyamalai landscape**, situated at the southernmost tip of the Western Ghats.
- The name translates to '**Golden Hill**' or '**Golden Peak**'.
- They are identified as biodiversity-rich, and the discovery of the **Cliffside Bambootail**.