



New Cicada Species: Nagaland

Why in News

Recently, a new cicada species (*Platyomia kohimaensis*) was found in the [Naga Hills of Nagaland](#).

- Earlier, two species of Cicadas ***Savazana mirabilis*** and ***Salvazana imperialis*** were discovered in Meghalaya.

Key Points

- About: [//](#)



- Cicadas are hemipteran insects known for their **loud, complex and species-specific acoustic signals** or songs.
 - Hemipteran insects, **also called true bugs**, have mouthparts used for **piercing and sucking and have two pairs of wings**.
- The new cicada species belongs to the ***Platyomia radha group*** described from the Naga Hills in the eastern Himalayas.
- It is a **dusk singing, large-sized cicada that calls for a short window** during the evening twilight hours. It timbalises in the form of a continuous and regular cackling.
 - Timbal is a sound producing membrane in various insects.

▪ Significance of Cicadas:

- They are mostly beneficial. They **prune mature trees, aerate the soil**, and once they die, **their bodies serve as an important source of nitrogen** for growing trees.
- With their acoustic signatures, they act as **indicators of a healthy forest ecosystem**.

▪ Habitat:

- Most cicadas are **canopy dwellers** and are found in **natural forests with large trees**.

- The **generic diversity of cicadas in India and Bangladesh ranks the highest** in the world, followed by China.

▪ **Threat:**

- Large-scale clearing of natural forest land into human settlement and agricultural fields, along with **burning of forests is behind the shrinking distribution** of Cicada.
- Since it is considered a delicacy and fetches a good price, its **unabated capturing and killing during its mass emergence** poses a great threat to its survival.

Source: DTE

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