



Army Tag for New Gecko

Why in News?

Recently, a team of **herpetologists** have recorded a new species of **bent-toed gecko** from a wooded part of the **Umroi Military Station** in **Meghalaya**.

- Its scientific name is *Cryptodactylus exercitus* and its English name is **Indian Army's bent-toed gecko**.
- Further, another new bent-toed gecko, the *Cyrtodactylus siahaensis* named after Mizoram's Siahia district where it was found.
- A herpetologist is someone who specializes in the **study of reptiles and amphibians**.

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What are Geckos?

- Geckos are **reptiles and are found on all the continents except Antarctica**.
- These colorful lizards have adapted to habitats from **rainforests, to deserts, to cold mountain slopes**.
- Over a long period of time, **geckos have developed special physical features** to help them survive and avoid predators.
- Gecko tails serve many purposes. They help balance their weight as they **climb branches**, they act as fuel tanks to **store fat, and as camouflage** to help them disappear into their environment.
 - Geckos are also able to shed their **tails if a predator grabs them**.
- Most geckos are **nocturnal**, which means they are active at night, but day geckos are active during the day and **nibble on insects, fruits, and flower nectar**.
- Most geckos make noises such as **chirping, barking, and clicking** when they are defending their territory or attracting a mate.
- There are many species of geckos. Depending on the species, their **endangered status can**

range from least concern to critically endangered.

[Source: TH](#)

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