



Striped Caecilian

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Recently, a **limbless amphibian** called the **Striped Caecilian (*Ichthyophis spp*)** has been discovered for the first time in the [Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve](#), during a rapid herpetofauna survey.

- **Reptiles and amphibians are collectively called herpetofauna.** Caecilians belong to the family of Ichthyophiidae.
 - It is characterised by its **worm-like body**. They have a **limited sense of vision** and primarily rely on **touch and smell** to navigate their environment.
 - They spend most of their lives **burrowed under soil** and are **carnivorous**.
 - Their presence provides critical insights into the **evolution and intercontinental speciation** due to their **ancient lineage**.
 - They are **indicator species** for the environment and play a crucial role in **controlling pests**.

Kaziranga National Park:

- **Located** between the **Brahmaputra River** and the **Karbi (Mikir) Hills**.
- It was declared as a **National Park** in **1974**, and a [World Heritage Site](#) by [UNESCO](#) in **1985**.
- **“Big 5” Species:** Rhinoceros, Tiger, Elephant, Wild Water Buffalo, and Swamp deer.
- **Major vegetation types:** Alluvial inundated grasslands, Tropical wet evergreen forests and Tropical semi-evergreen forests.

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Read more: [Kaziranga National Park](#), [Amphibians Threatened by Climate Change](#)

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