



Nairobi Flies

Why in News?

Recently, after coming into contact with **Nairobi flies**, approximately 100 students in **East Sikkim** have reported **skin infections**.

What are Nairobi Flies?

▪ About:

- It's a species of insect **native to East Africa**.
- Nairobi flies, also known as **Kenyan flies or dragon bugs**, are small, beetle-like insects of **two species**:
 - Paederus Eximius.
 - Paederus sabaeus.
- They are orange and black in colour and **thrive in areas with high rainfall**, as has been seen in Sikkim in recent weeks.
- Like most insects, they are **attracted to Bright lights**.

▪ Historical Outbreaks:

- Significant **outbreaks have occurred in Kenya and other parts of eastern Africa**. In 1998, unusually heavy rain brought a large number of insects into the area.
- In the past several outbreaks have happened outside Africa like in India, Japan, and Paraguay.

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What are their effects on Humans?

- These insects usually don't bite but if they are disturbed during their stay on human skin, they could release a **potent acidic substance that can cause burn on human skin**.
- The released substance is called **Pederin and it can cause irritation on the skin, which leads to lesions or unusual marks or coloring of the skin**.

[Source: IE](#)

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