



New Species in Andaman

Why in News

Recently a group of scientists has reported a new genus of treefrog from the **Andaman Islands** called **Striped Bubble-nest frog**.



Key Points

- **Biological name:** *Rohanixalus vittatus*
 - The new genus '**Rohanixalus**' is **named** after **Sri Lankan taxonomist** Rohan Pethiyagoda.
- Striped Bubble-nest frog belongs to the genus of the Old World treefrog family **Rhacophoridae**.
- This is the first report of a tree frog species from the Andaman Islands.
- **Bodily Features**
 - Small and slender body (**2-3 cm long**).
 - A **pair of contrastingly coloured lateral lines** on either side of the body. Minute brown speckles scattered throughout the upper body.
 - Light green-coloured eggs laid in **arboreal** bubble-nests.
 - Arboreal means living in trees or related trees
 - They are also known as Asian Glass Frog or see through frogs.
 - While the general background coloration of most glass frogs is primarily **lime green**, the abdominal skin of some members of this family is **translucent** (allowing light to pass through). The internal viscera, including the heart, liver, and gastrointestinal tract, **are visible through this translucent skin, hence the common name**.
 - The genus has several unique behavioural traits:

- **Maternal egg attendance:**

- The female (mother) attends the egg clutches until hatching and assists in release of the tadpoles into the water.
- During the **first three days** after egg laying, the **female sits over the eggs** and produces a **gelatinous secretion** with which she glazes (covers) the egg mass through **clockwise movement of her legs**. This behaviour provides **necessary moisture to the eggs laid on exposed leaf surfaces** and protects them from **insect predation**.

- **Community egg attendance:**

- A large number of egg clutches (**over 50**) of different developmental stages on a single leaf or plant. **Multiple females** usually attend such clutches in a behaviour termed as **'community' egg attendance**.
- Frequent **male-male combats** involving pushing, kicking and dislodging to **mate with a female**.

[Source: TH](#)

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