



Nelloptodes Gretae

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Scientists at the Natural History Museum in London have officially named a tiny species of beetle *Nelloptodes gretae*. It has been named after the 16-year-old Swedish environmental

campaigner **Greta Thunberg**.



- *N. gretae* was **first found in Kenya in the 1960s** which was later donated to the Natural History Museum in London in 1978.
- Biological names comprise two words, one for the genus and the second for the species.

While the species name *gretae* derives from Greta, the genus *Nelloptodes* too is new.

Key Points

- The arthropod, which has no eyes or wings, is **less than 1mm long and belongs to the Ptiliidae family**, which is made up of some of the world's smallest beetles.
- Biodiversity loss has led to the **faster extinction of the undiscovered species**. The naming signifies Greta's contribution in raising awareness of environmental issues.
- A parasite named after Bob Marley (*Gnathia marleyi*), a genus of fish called after Richard Dawkins (*Dawkinsia*), a spider called *Spintharus leonardodicaprio* after Leonardo DiCaprio are some other species named after famous personalities.

Source: IE