

Agasthyamalai Bushfrog: Wider Distribution in Western Ghats

A new study revealed the Agasthyamalai Bushfrog's expanded distribution in the Western Ghats.

The Agasthyamalai Bushfrog (*Raorchestes agasthyaensis*) is a species of frog endemic to the Western Ghats.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- A research team discovered the **Agasthyamalai Bushfrog** in the high-elevation **shola forests** of **Devikulam**, near **Munnar**.
- This discovery extends the species' known distribution by more than **120 km northwards**.
- Previously, the **Agasthyamalai Bushfrog** was thought to be confined to the **Agasthyamalai Hills**, south of the **Shencottah Gap**.
- The findings were published in the journal "**Reptiles & Amphibians**".
- The study challenges long-held assumptions about the species' geographic range in the **Western Ghats**.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

The scientific name for **Agasthyamalai Bushfrog** is **Raorchestes agasthyaensis**.

The **Western Ghats** is recognized as one of the world's **eight "hottest hotspots"** of biological diversity.

Shola forests are unique high-altitude montane evergreen forests found in the **Western Ghats**.

The **Shencottah Gap** is a mountain pass in the **Western Ghats**, connecting **Kerala** and **Tamil Nadu**.

Agasthyamalai Hills is a part of the **Western Ghats** and a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

Munnar is a popular hill station located in the **Idukki district** of **Kerala**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

*Agasthyamalai Bushfrog (*Raorchestes agasthyaensis*) found further north in Western Ghats.*

Syllabus Relevance: High - Direct relevance to General Science (Biology, Environment) and Geography (Western Ghats, Biodiversity).

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