


ICAR-NBFGR Discovery: *Ophichthus naevius* - A New Spotted Snake Eel Species Unveiled from India's Bay of Bengal

A newly identified species of snake eel, discovered along the coasts of Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu, has been officially described. This novel species, christened *Ophichthus "naevius,"* a Latin term meaning 'spotted' or 'marked with moles,' earns its name from the distinctive dark spots adorning its dorsal surface. The principal specimen (holotype) of this species is now housed and catalogued at the National Fish Museum and Repository of the ICAR-NBFGR in Lucknow. Additionally, the species name has been formally registered in ZooBank, which is the official online repository for nomenclature under the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN). The discovery of this snake eel, which enriches the diversity of the genus *Ophichthus* in Indian waters to a total of 14 species, was detailed in a recent publication in the "Journal of Fish Biology," a peer-reviewed scientific journal.



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A new snake eel species of the genus *Ophichthus* (Anguilliformes: Ophichthidae) from the southeast coast of India, Bay of Bengal with taxonomic account of *Ophichthus chilkensis*

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