



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
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# Ophichthus Suryai

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## DISCOVERY OF NEW SPECIES

Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India's Gopalpur regional centre recently discovered a new species of snake eel named 'Ophichthus Suryai' in Odisha.

About Ophichthus Suryai:

- It is a new species of snake eel discovered from Odisha.
- The new species can be distinguished from its closely allied congeners *Ophichthus alleni*, *Ophichthus zophistius*, and *Ophichthus altipennis*, and other members in this genus by
- having the dorsal fin origin (DFO) just above or slightly anterior to the gill opening
- its unique vertebral count and teeth patterns consisting of multiple rows on both maxilla and mandible

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