

The Wave Andaman

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New Arabian Sea Eel Species Named After Indian Ichthyologist J. Praveenraj

***Ariosoma praveeni*, a new species of congrid eel from the Arabian Sea**



Sri Vijaya Puram, Sept. 28: The species was identified from a specimen collected at a depth of about 600 metres off the Kollam coast in the Arabian Sea. Dr. Paramasivam Kodeeswaran, a scientist associated with the Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE), Kochi, described the species in collaboration with Emma S. Karmovskaya of the Shirshov Institute of Oceanology, Russian Academy of Sciences.

The researchers formally described *Ariosoma praveeni* in *Zootaxa* in August 2026, establishing it as a new species of congrid eel from the Arabian Sea. The scientific description places the discovery within ongoing efforts to document the diversity of India's marine and freshwater fish fauna.

The authors chose the species name to honour Praveenraj for his contributions to Indian freshwater and marine fish taxonomy and biodiversity studies. The recognition links his sustained taxonomic work with the formal scientific documentation of a newly identified marine species.

The naming also records the role of Indian ichthyological research in expanding knowledge of the country's fish diversity. Taxonomic documentation provides the scientific basis for identifying and understanding species, while the new description adds another formally recognised species to the recorded diversity of the Arabian Sea.