

Euphranta Siruvani

With its first appearance in Siruvani, a bio - diversity hotspot in the Western Ghats, a fruit fly has generated a stir. It turns out to be a brand-new species that has never been observed, classified, or documented before. *Euphranta siruvani* is the biological name for the fruit fly, which was named for the location where it was initially discovered.

The topic has a very high chance of being asked as a UPSC Prelims Environment and Ecology Question or as a Current Affairs Question, as it has been in the news recently.

About Euphranta Siruvani

A species might be named after the holotype's 'type locality,' a specific distinctive trait, the collector, or a prominent taxonomist for his accomplishments. The location was chosen in this case because it is a vibrant ecosystem with diverse fauna and flora, as well as a source of drinking water supply for Coimbatore. Prior to being confirmed as a new species, the discovery is examined with the regional/global catalogue, referred to existing literature, and communicated with authorities and governments around the world by mail. The genus *Euphranta* has 104 recognised species that are found all over the world. So far, 14 have been discovered in India. And the new discovery is the latest addition to the list. Fruit flies are found in over 5,000 different species around the world. We currently have almost 290 species in India.

Significance

This fruit fly is one of a rare species that contributes to biodiversity. A plant's reproductive ability is harmed when such insects infest the fruits. Fruit flies infect mangoes, watermelon, gourds, and guavas, so research on them is crucial for the agrarian economy. It lays eggs in fruits and the larvae feed on the pulp. Many parasitic bugs are also beneficial to farmers in terms of pest management.