

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Western Ghats get a new species of butterfly after 33 years  
The Cloud Forest Silverline**

A new species of Silver line butterfly namely "Cigaritis meghamalaiensis" has been discovered in the Megamalai division of Srivilliputtur Megamalai Tiger Reserve. This marks the first discovery of a new butterfly species in the Western Ghats in 33 years. The new species is named after the region – Megamalai which means 'cloud mountain'. Researchers from VANAM an NGO based in Theni led by Dr.Kalesh Sadasivam, Thiru S. Ramasamy Kamaya and Dr.C.P. Rajkumar made the discovery. This has been published in the current issue of peer reviewed, journal "ENTOMON". With this discovery the total number of butterflies in Western Ghats will rise to 337 species, including 40 Western Ghats endemics.

The discovery was made by the researchers with the support provided by the Chief Wildlife Warden Thiru Srinivas Reddy, Deputy Director, Thiru Anand and Field Director, Tmt. Padmawathe.

Additional Chief Secretary to Government,  
Environment, Climate Change & Forests Dept

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