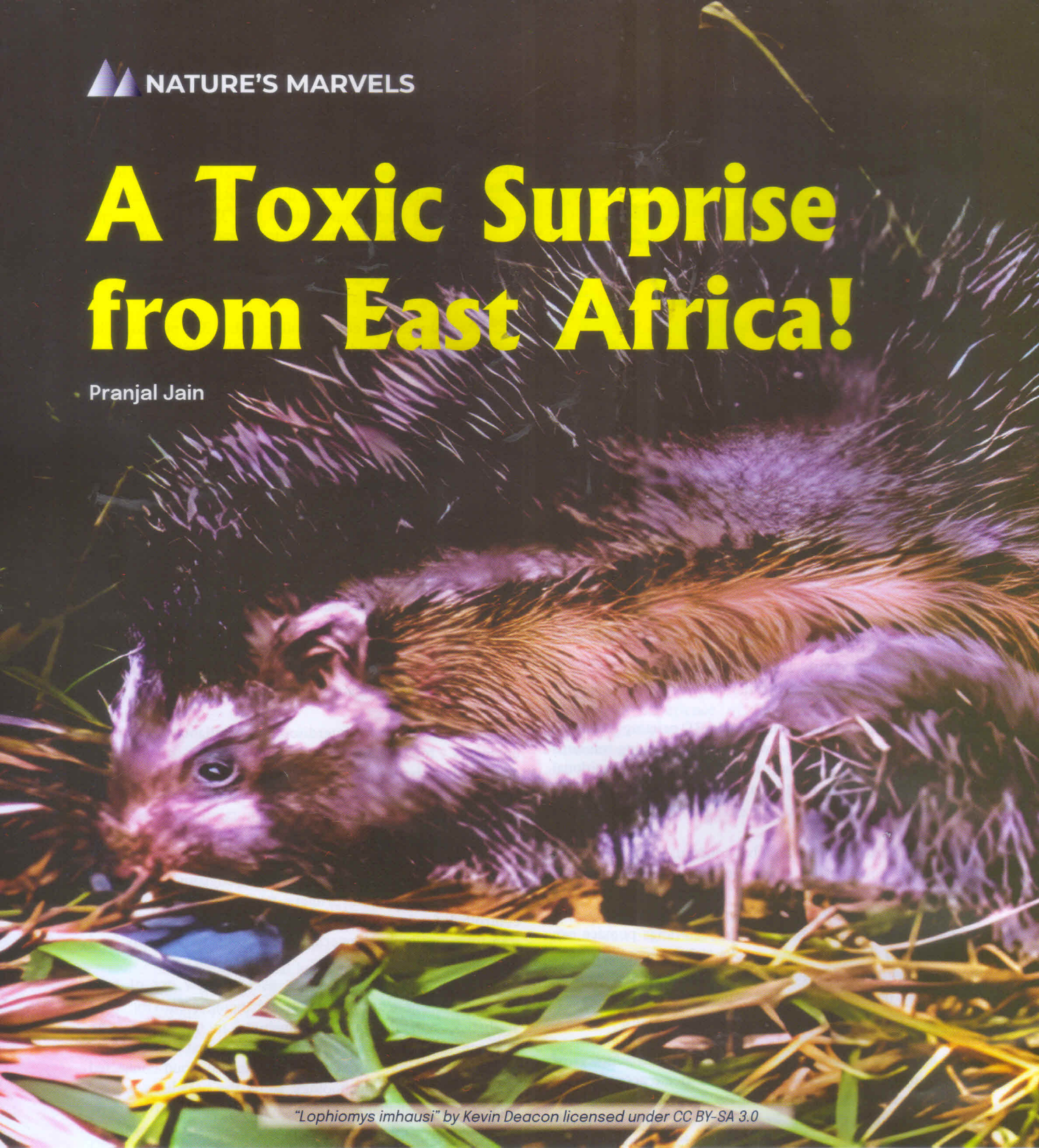


# A Toxic Surprise from East Africa!

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"*Lophiomy's imhausi*" by Kevin Deacon licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0

**O**RGANISMS all across the spectrum of taxa have developed unique adaptations as defence mechanisms to survive and pass on their genes. This is what makes them "fit" for survival. Poisons, venoms, and toxins are among the deadliest tools employed by plants and animals alike, both for obtaining food and for protecting themselves from becoming food for another.

In a long list of such organisms is one very unique mammal, which, though incapable of producing its own venom or poison, sequesters it in its body. It does this by chewing on poisonous plants and is the only mammal on the planet to do so.

African Crested Rat (*Lophiomy's imhausi*) is only about the size of an average domestic rabbit (25-36 cm) but packs