

## Canscora agni

*Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Species*

### Why in News?

Recently, researchers from IISER (Indian Institute of Science Education and Research) Pune and the Savanna Science Foundation discovered a new plant species.

### Scientific Classification

- **Scientific Name** - *Canscora agni*.
- **Family** - Gentianaceae.
- **Genus** - *Canscora*.
- **Native Range** - Indian savannas (Western India).
- **Closest Relative** - *Canscora alata*.
- **Nomenclature** - The plant was named **agni** ('fire' in several Indian languages, including Marathi, the local language of the discovery site).
- It is to challenge the common misconception that all fires are destructive.



### Key Characteristics

- **Growth** - Dwarf herb, maximum height 10 cm (vs. *C. alata* up to 60 cm).
- **Leaves** - Fewer, shorter, up to 11 mm long.
- **Stems** - Uneven wing-like structures, wider below flowers, narrower

towards stem.

- **Flowers** - White petals; calyx with distinct reticulate (web-like) veins.
- **Unique Traits** - Minute glandular hairs on leaves, shorter ovary, winged stems.
- **Habitat** - Fire-prone savannas; thrives in open grassy areas maintained by periodic natural fires.
- **Fire Adaptation** - *C. agni* thrives specifically in mesic savannas characterized by frequent surface fires (occurring every 1 to 5 years).
- **Conservation Threat** - Fire suppression and large-scale tree planting are harming the open savanna habitat this species needs.

## Reference

[Research Matters | C.agni](#)

