

Ceropegia Tamilnaduensis in Tamil Nadu

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Environment

Why in News?

Recently, scientists from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) discovered and described a new perennial flowering plant species, *Ceropegia tamilnaduensis*, during floristic surveys in the Western Ghats region of Tamil Nadu.

- **Nomenclature** - The new species is named after the state of **Tamil Nadu** to honor its rich endemic flora and ecological heritage.
- **Discovery Site & Habitat**
 - Discovered on the stream-side hill slopes within the **Nellai Wildlife Sanctuary** (Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu) surrounded by dense evergreen forests.
- **Morphological Characteristics**
 - **Growth Form** - Perennial herb with drooping/pendant stems.
 - **Floral Traits** - Features single, solitary flowers with a **glabrous (hairless) central corona** and a specialized pollinial corpusculum with lateral wings.
 - **Seed Size** - Produces unusually large seeds measuring up to **14 mm** in length.
 - **Taxonomic Affinities** - Shares floral similarities with *Ceropegia annamacharyae* and leaf morphology with *Ceropegia swarupa*.
- **Conservation Status**
 - Provisionally assessed as **Data Deficient (DD)** under IUCN criteria, pending further field studies to determine its full geographical range and population size.

Nellai Wildlife Sanctuary

Parameter	Key Details
Location & Landscape	Situated in the southern Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu (Tirunelveli district).
Notification Year	Formally notified as a Wildlife Sanctuary in 2015 .
Key Fauna	Nilgiri Tahr, Lion-tailed Macaque, Asian Elephant, Bengal Tiger, Grizzled Giant Squirrel, and Gaur.
Ecological Role	Acts as an important contiguous forest corridor within the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve landscape.

CEROPEGIA TAMILNADUENSIS (APOCYNACEAE)

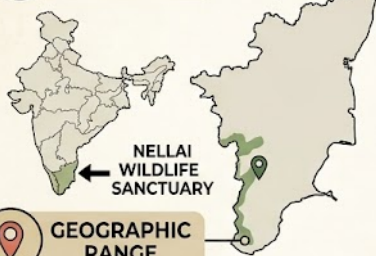


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LOCATION & HABITAT



NESTED MAP
& LOCATION



GEOGRAPHIC
RANGE



HABITAT TYPE
STREAM-SIDE
HILL SLOPES



PROXIMITY
NEAR EVERGREEN
FORESTS



HABITAT
TYPE
STREAM-SIDE
HILL SLOPES



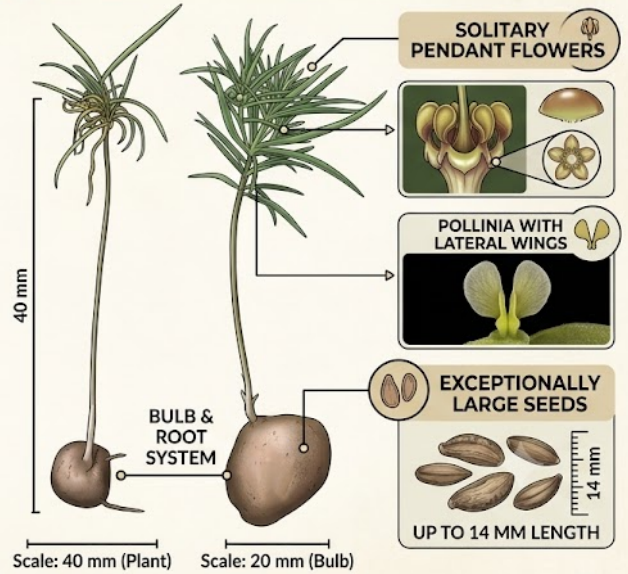
PROXIMITY
NEAR
EVERGREEN
FORESTS



ELEVATION
AROUND
380 METRES

2

DISTINCT MORPHOLOGY



Reference

[Research Matters | Ceropegia tamilnaduensis](#)



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