Cyphostemma annamalaii

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Why in News?

Researchers from Annamalai University have discovered a new plant species in the grape family in the southern Eastern Ghats, Tamil Nadu (Villupuram district, Sanjeevi Hill).

- **Scientific Name** – *Cyphostemma annamalaii*. (no common name)
- **Kingdom** – Plantae.
- **Family** – Vitaceae Juss (grape family, 1,000 species, 20 genera).
- **Genus** – *Cyphostemma* (second largest genus in Vitaceae around 250 species).
- **Nomenclature** – Named after Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiyar.
- **Habitat** – Tropical dry forest; Open scrubby habitat; climber using surrounding vegetation for support.
- **Range** – Endemic to southern Eastern Ghats; restricted distribution.



Morphological Features		
	Cyphostemma annamalaii	*Cyphostemma setosum* (Allied Species)
Leaves	Starts with three leaves and ends with three.	Starts with a single leaf and ends with three leaves.
Flowers	Petals white or yellow.	Petals are greenish-white on the top half, becoming reddish-brown.
Fruit	Round, yellow fruit	Ovate-shaped (egg-shaped) fruit that is red.

Root	Tuberous root system.	(Not specifically detailed in the text, but noted for medicinal properties).
Distinctiveness	Morphology clearly separates it from allied species; confirmed by expert review in *Phytotaxa*.	Known for its use in treating stomach ulcers and its antidiabetic and antimicrobial properties.

Reference

- The Hindu | Cyphostemma annamalaii

