

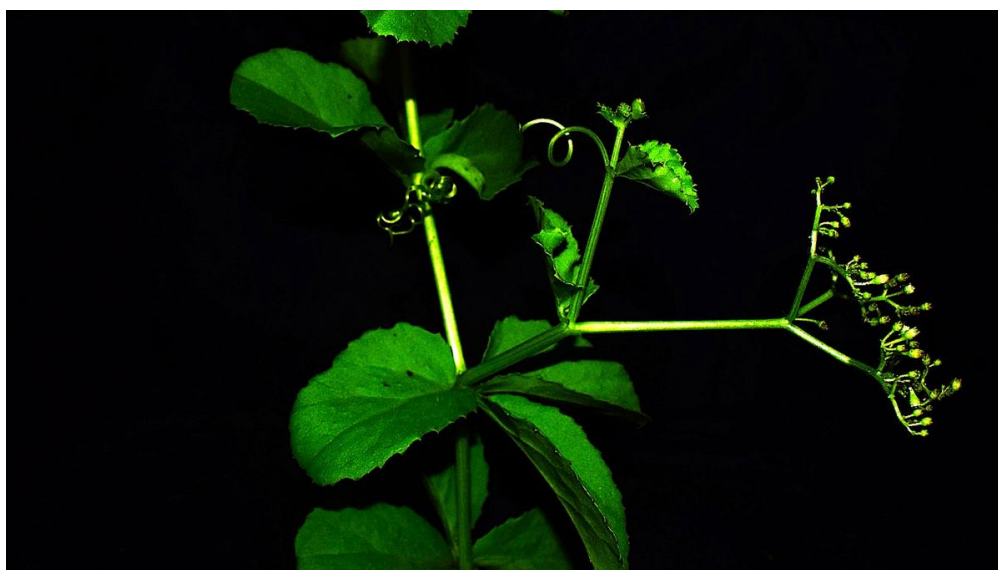
Cyphostemma annamalaii

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Biodiversity

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

| | <i>Cyphostemma annamalaii</i> | <i>Cyphostemma setosum</i> (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 <i>Phytotaxa</i> . | Known for its use in treating stomach ulcers and its antidiabetic and antimicrobial properties. |

Reference

- [The Hindu | Cyphostemma annamalaii](#)

