

Dicliptera pakhalica

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Conservation

Why in News?

Recently, a new species of plant has been discovered in Telangana by scientists from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI).

- The new **flowering plant belongs to the Acanthaceae family.**
- **Genus** - *Dicliptera*.
- **Nomenclature** - **Named after Pakhal Lake**, a historic man-made reservoir from the Kakatiya period.
- **Habitat** - Grows along stream banks and rocky areas near waterfalls inside Pakhal Wildlife Sanctuary.
- **Distribution** - The species is **known only from its type locality in Pakhal Wildlife Sanctuary.**
 - **Family Trait** - Notably, the Acanthaceae family of plants are distributed across tropical and subtropical regions worldwide.
- **Key Characteristics** -
- **Plant** - Stem has tiny hairs lying flat and pointing downward
- Leaf-like parts near the flowers are smooth, without a central ridge
- **Flowers and fruits** - Lack sticky or oil-secreting hairs
- Seeds have a rough, spiny surface
 - Flowers between November and January
 - Fruiting extends from December to March.
- **Similar species** - It closely resembles *Dicliptera parvibracteata*, a species native to parts of the Eastern Ghats in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.
- **Unique association** - The species occurs in association with other native plants such as *Tarenna asiatica*, *Eranthemum purpurascens*, *Ruellia prostrata* and *Mallotus philippensis*.
- **Conservation Status** -
 - **IUCN Red List** - Data Deficient (DD).

- **Ecological Significance** - It adds to the plant diversity of the Eastern Ghats landscape.
- Highlights the importance of protected sites as a centre of plant diversity.



References

[The New Indian Express | Dicliptera pakhalica](#)

