Gastrochilus Pechei

Prelims – *Current events of National and International Importance| Bio-diversity.*

Why in News?

Recently, researchers recorded a new orchid plant in Vijoynagar, Arunachal Pradesh.

- The *Gastrochilus pechei* was known to bloom only in **Myanmar.**
- It was founded at an altitude of 1,200 meters in Vijoynagar, one of the country's remotest administrative circles bordering Myanmar.
- **Genus –** Gastrochilus.
  - It is a small genus first recorded in 1825.
  - It is a monopodial orchid genus comprising 77 species widely distributed in tropical, subtropical, and temperate Asia.
- **Gastrochilus in India –** *22 species of the Gastrochilus genus* had been recorded from India; of these, *15 are from Arunachal Pradesh*.
- **Scientific Name –** Gastrochilus pechei.
- **Common name –** Peche's Lip Orchid.
- **Family –** Orchidaceae.
- **Characteristics –** It is a small, epiphytic orchid with a single, leathery leaf and a short stem.
- It has many leathery, flat leaves that sheathe at the base, with an unequally bilobed apex.
- The inflorescence is lateral, relatively short, sub-umbellate, and bears a few to many flowers.
- Sepals and petals are free, similar, and spreading.
- The lip features a subglobose, saccate hypochile; the epichile is fan shaped with fimbriate margins.
- The column is short and thick, 2 pollinia are subglobose.



- **Habitat –** It flowers in September-October and thrives in *moist, evergreen rainforest on small trees near riverbanks.*

References

1. The Hindu| New orchid recorded in Arunachal Pradesh.
2. Lankesteriana| Gastrochilus pechei.

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