Hoya Nagaensis

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

Recently, a new plant species previously unknown to science has been recorded from Nagaland, and its findings have been published in the international journal Kew Bulletin.

- The new plant belongs to the ***milkweed group of plants***, which are known for their milky sap.
- **Genus –** Hoya, known as *waxflowers* for their attractive appearance and ornamental value.
  - **Growth Habitat –** Mostly climbing or hanging vines growing on trees or rocks, with twining stems and milky sap.
  - **Leaves & Flowers –** Have thick, leathery or fleshy leaves and waxy flowers that grow in clusters and reappear each year.
- **Habitat & Distribution –** High-altitude temperate forests under community protection of Nagaland.
- It is known only from a single location, leading to extremely restricted distribution.
- **Key Characteristics –** It shows close ***morphological affinity with Hoya thomsonii and Hoya coronaria.***
  - **Appearance –** Distinctive leaf shapes.
  - **Flowers –** Unique floral features distinguishing it from other *Hoya* species.
- **Conservation Status –**
  - **IUCN Red List –** Critically Endangered (provisional classification)
- **Threats –** Shifting cultivation and forest disturbance.
- **Ecological Significance –** Highlights the *importance of community-protected forests of Nagaland* as a vital refuge for rare and endemic plants.
- It underscores the Eastern Himalaya as a reservoir of undiscovered plant diversity.



References

1. TH | Hoya Nagaensis
2. Nagaland Tribune | Hoya Nagaensis

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