

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](#)