Parakaempferia alba

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Species*

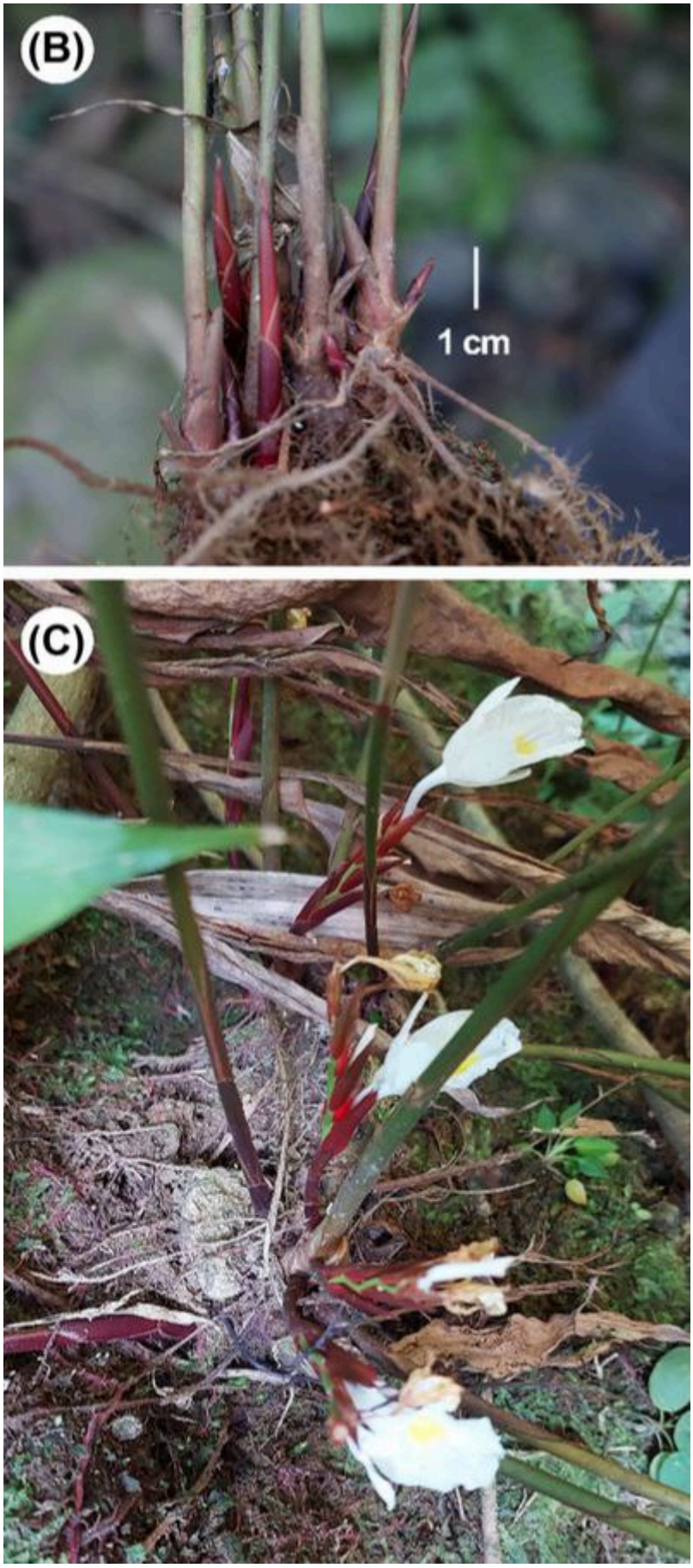
Why in News?

Recently, a new ginger species has been discovered in Arunachal Pradesh's Siang Valley and published in the Nordic Journal of Botany.

- Parakaempferia alba is a species in the ginger family.

A Ginger (Zingiber officinale) is an herbaceous perennial plant with pungent aromatic rhizome (underground stem) used as a spice, flavoring, food, and medicine.

- **Family –** Zingiberaceae.
  - Members of Zingiberaceae usually grow in moist shady places of the tropical regions.
- **Discovered in –** The *East Siang District*, Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Habitat –** It was growing along the shaded streambanks with humid, sandy soil at an altitude of 150–400 meters.
- **Distribution –** It is found in *moist tropical and subtropical forests* of Southeast Asia.
- **Characteristics –** Parakaempferia alba has a different leaf shape compared to ***its close relative Parakaempferia synantha.***
- Structure of flower clusters (spikes) and their protective leaf-like parts (bracts) also differ from *P.synantha*
- **Uniqueness –** It has unique glands near the base of the flower (near the ovary), which are not seen in the related species.
- **Biodiversity Value –** Arunachal Pradesh, being part of the Eastern Himalayas, highlights the ***ecological richness*** of this global biodiversity hotspot.



Reference

NorthEast Today | New Ginger species



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