

Parakaempferia alba

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Species

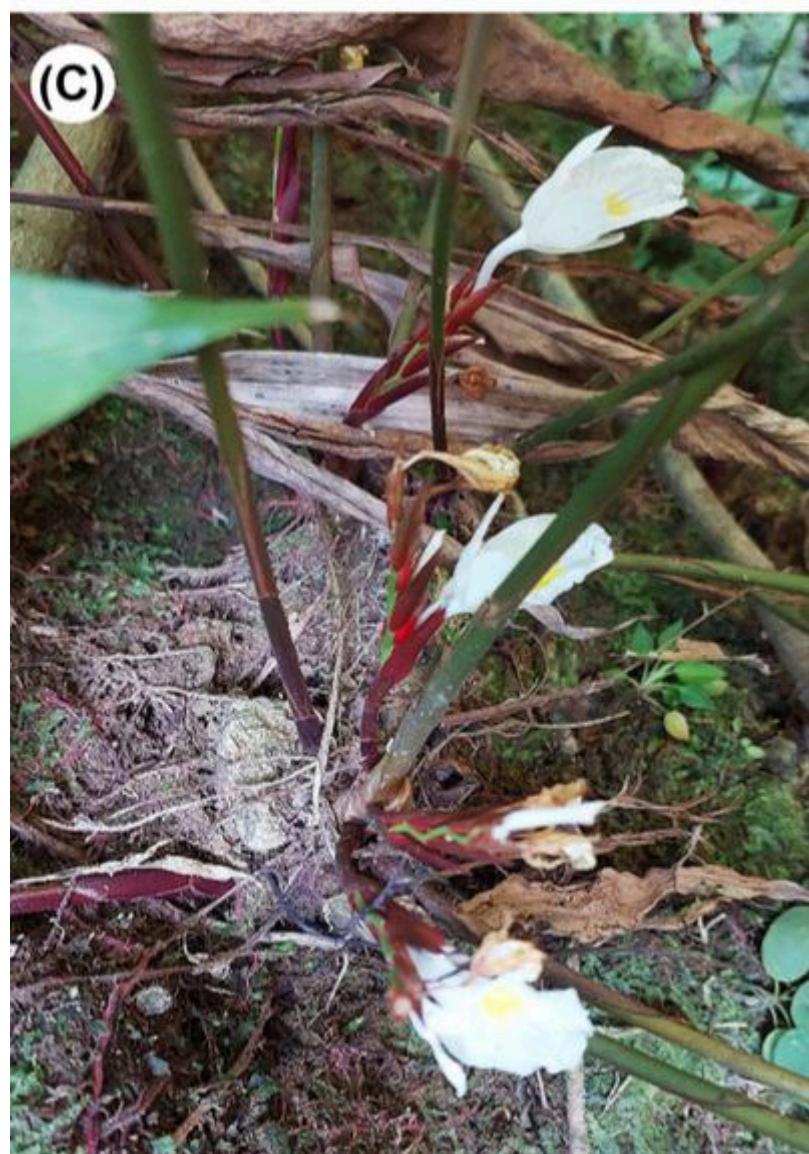
Why in News?

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](#)

