

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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