

Russula griseopurpurata

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Why in News?

A mushroom collected beneath a sal tree in Meghalaya's Ri Bhoi district in 2022 has been identified as a species new to science.

- **Scientific Name** - *Russula griseopurpurata*.
- The species name refers to its greyish-purple colour.
- **Genus** - The mushroom belongs to the large and diverse *Russula* genus.
- The researchers said the *Russula* genus comprises about 2,000 species worldwide, with more than 180 species documented in different parts of India.
- The species has so far been recorded from **Meghalaya and West Bengal**.
- **Elevation** - It was found at an elevation of 320 metres.
- **Supporting Tree** - It was found growing beneath *Shorea robusta*, commonly known as sal.
- **Appearance** - The mushroom has a greyish-purple cap that develops cracks as it matures.
- Its gills show characteristic forkings near the stalk.



- Researchers examined these and other microscopic features before using its **DNA sequencing and phylogenetic analysis** to establish its identity.
- The study examined 3 specimens of the new species two from West Bengal and one from Meghalaya.
- The Meghalaya specimen, deposited under the number **GUBH 20331**, generated an ITS sequence recorded as **PQ432811** and was included in the phylogenetic analysis.
- The three specimens grouped together with strong statistical support, supporting their identification as the same species.
- The mushrooms were found singly or in scattered groups beneath sal trees.
- Although some *Russula* species are edible, the researchers have **not established *R. griseopurpurata* as edible**.
- Its reported mild taste and odour do not constitute a food-safety assessment.

Reference

[Hub Network | Mushroom found in Meghalaya's Ri Bhoi](#)

