

Tetrataenium paikadae

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Species

Why in News?

Recently, researchers discovered a new plant species, *Tetrataenium paikadae*, in the high-altitude grasslands of Eravikulam National Park in the Western Ghats.

- The new species **belongs to the carrot and coriander family called Apiaceae.**
- **Genus** - *Tetrataenium*.
- **Nomenclature** - Named in honour of Rev. Fr. Joseph Paikada, former Principal and Manager of Devagiri College.
- **Habitat** - **Moist, marshy high-altitude grasslands.**
- **Distribution** - Endemic to Eravikulam National Park, Idukki district, Kerala.
 - **Elevation range** - 1,000-2,500 metres above sea level
- **Key Characteristics - Height** - 30-80 cm
- **Flowering** - July-September
- **Fruiting** - October-November
 - Distinguished by the number and structural arrangement of oil tubes in fruits.
- **Feature** - The stem is covered with thick, rough hairs.
- The leaves are oval or egg-shaped.
- Clusters of small white flowers
- **Threats** - Habitat degradation, climate change impacts on montane ecosystems, and human disturbances such as tourism and invasive species.
- **Ecological Significance** - Highlights the high endemism of montane grasslands and the biodiversity of the Western Ghats.



Reference

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