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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