

Two new plant species discovered in Western Ghats

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In news- Recently, Researchers have discovered two new plant species named *Fimbristylis sunilii* and *Neanotis prabhuii* from the biodiversity-rich Western Ghats regions in Thiruvananthapuram and Wayanad districts.

About the plant species-

- *Fimbristylis sunilii* was collected from the grasslands of Ponmudi hills, Thiruvananthapuram, it has been named after plant taxonomist C.N. Sunil, retired professor SNM College Kerala.
- A perennial plant of the *Cyperaceae* family, it stands 20-59 cm tall and was collected from an elevation of 1,100 meters.
- *Fimbristylis sunilii* has been **provisionally assessed as data deficient (DD) under the IUCN Red List** categories.
- *Neanotis prabhuii* is a **prostrate perennial herb** named after K.M. Prabhukumar, Senior Scientist at CSIR-NBRI, Lucknow, in recognition of his research on flowering plants of the Western Ghats and contributions to biodiversity conservation.
- **Discovered in the Chembra Peak grasslands of Wayanad**, it hails from the **family Rubiaceae and grows on high-altitude grasslands.**
- *Neanotis prabhuii* grows up to 70 cm in length and is many-flowered with the petals pale pink in colour.
- *Neanotis prabhuii* has been **categorized data deficient (DD)** in the absence of any detailed observations and data on populations.