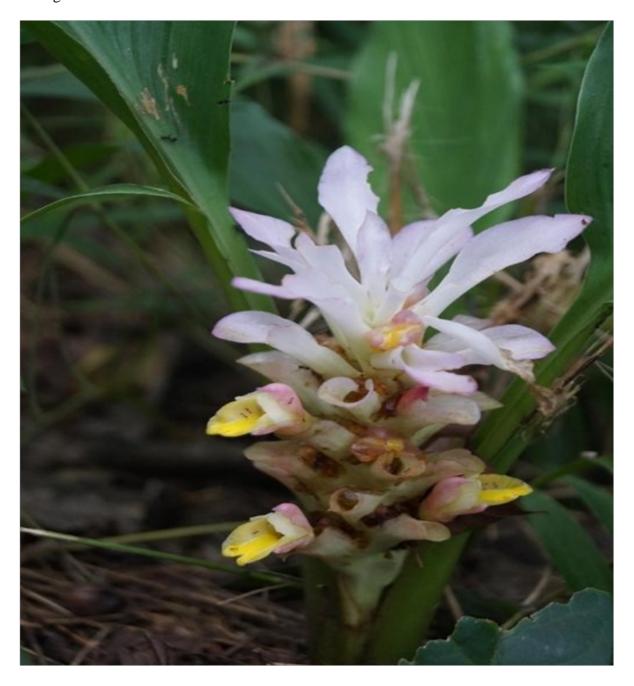


New species of Genus Curcuma discovered in Nagaland

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Researchers have identified a **new relative of turmeric**, following an accidental discovery made during a field trip in Nagaland.



About Curcuma ungmensis

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- The plant belongs to the genus Curcuma (the ginger family Zingiberaceae).
- It stands 65-90-cm high with prominent yellow flowers at full growth.
- It has been given the name *Curcuma ungmensis* after **Ungma**, the village in **Mokokchung district** where it was found
- Itis a rhizomatous herb. The rhizome part is branched and found deeply buried in the soil.
- Flowering occurs during the rainy season from August to October.
- The flowers open in the morning and last a single day
- It faces severe threats from road development, building construction and natural calamities.
- A rhizome is a modified subterranean plant stem that sends out roots and shoots from its nodes.
- Rhizomes are also called **creeping rootstalks or just rootstalks**.
- Rhizomes develop from axillary buds and grow horizontally.
- The rhizome also *retains the ability to allow new shoots* to grow upwards.

About Zingiberaceae

- Zingiberaceae or the ginger family is afamily of flowering plantsmade up of about 50 genera with a total of about 1600 known species of aromatic perennial herbs.
- These are distributed throughout tropical Africa, Asia, and the Americas.
- The familyhas21 genera and about 200 taxa in India

About Curcuma

- It is a genus of plants in the family Zingiberaceae that contains such species as turmeric and Siam tulip.
- They are native to Southeast Asia, southern China, the Indian Subcontinent, New Guinea and northern Australia.
- A few species are also found in northern Australia and the south Pacific.
- Generally, most curcuma grows well in loose and sandy soil in shaded areas.
- Curcuma is aperennial, herbaceous plantthat can reach a height of 1 meter.
- It emits numerous, edible rhizomes whose interiors are yellow or orange.
- These rhizomes are reduced to a powder, which is the spice called curcuma.
- In India, the genus is represented by about 40 species, found mainly in northeast and southern States and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.