

Sonerila roxburghii

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Sonerila roxburghii Latest New

Researchers recently identified a new species of flowering plant named *Sonerila roxburghii* from the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats in Kerala.

About *Sonerila roxburghii*

- It is a new species of **flowering plant**.
- It was discovered in the Mankulam and Kallar areas of the **Idukki district of Kerala**, at elevations ranging between 1,380 and 1,480 metres above sea level.
- The species has been **named in honour** of renowned **botanist William Roxburgh** – hailing from Scotland – often regarded as the **Father of Indian Botany** and one of the earliest scientists to document the *Sonerila* genus.
- It belongs to the *Sonerila* genus of the Melastomataceae (flowering plant) family.
- It can be distinguished by several **unique morphological characteristics**, including:
 - **Plant stems** growing up to **60 cm in height**.

- **Light pink flowers.**
- **Smooth, flattened leaf surfaces** gradually **tapering toward the stem.**
- **Adaptation to moist, high-altitude rocky habitats.**
- The species belongs to a group of **delicate tropical herbs** largely confined to the **higher reaches of the Western Ghats** biodiversity hotspot.
- has been placed in the **Critically Endangered category** due to its highly restricted distribution and fragile habitat conditions.

Source: ETVB

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/sonerila-roxburghii/>

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