

Vaccinium Piliferum

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Vaccinium Piliferum Latest News

Recently, researchers have rediscovered 'Vaccinium piliferum' in the remote forests of Vijohnagar in Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district nearly after 188 years.

About Vaccinium Piliferum

- It is a rare and endangered wild relative of **blueberry species**.
- It belongs to **the Ericaceae family**, which includes blueberries and cranberries.
- It was rediscovered in the **Eastern Himalayan region**.
- The plant was originally recorded in 1836 during the colonial period.
- The species was found near **tributaries of the Noa-Dihing River** in the dense forests
- **Conservation Status:** The International Union for Conservation of Nature has listed 'Vaccinium piliferum' as an '**endangered**' species.

Key Facts about Blueberry

- Blueberries are a member of the Ericaceae or heath family.
- **Types of blueberries:** Lowbush (*Vaccinium angustifolium*), Highbush (*Vaccinium corymbosum* L.) and bilberry or forest blueberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*) etc.
- **Climate and soil:** Blueberry requires a relatively **cold climate** with 150 to 1200 hours of chill units to break dormancy.
- **Soil:** It prefers **well-drained, acidic, sandy loam soils** with organic matter content greater than 3%.
- Too cold temperature is detrimental and kills blueberry shoots and flower buds.
- **Nutritional Value:** They are packed with **essential nutrients, including vitamin C, vitamin K, and dietary fiber**. They also contain powerful antioxidants that help combat free radicals in the body

Source: TH

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