

Anaphalis sahyadrica

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Anaphalis sahyadrica Latest News

A team of botanists recently discovered a new plant species named *Anaphalis sahyadrica* in the southern Western Ghats.

About *Anaphalis sahyadrica*

- It is a **new plant species** belonging to the **sunflower family**.
- The plant was found in **high-altitude montane grasslands and shola forest margins** of the **Western Ghats**, including regions such as Anamudi and Meesapulimala in **Kerala**.
- It is a **subshrub** that grows at elevations **above 2,200 metres** above sea level.
- Its key identifying features include **smooth, hairless leaves** with **three prominent veins**.
- The plant grows up to about **one metre in height** and produces **90 to 120 white, hemispherical flower heads** (capitula).

What is a Subshrub?

- A subshrub is a type of plant that has some **characteristics of both a shrub and an herb**.
- It typically has **woody stems at the base, but the top** of the plant is **herbaceous and lacks woody tissue**.
- This means that while the **base of the plant is woody**, the **top of the plant is soft and green**.
- Subshrubs are **often smaller in size than shrubs** and are usually less than 3 feet tall.
- They are also often **more delicate and less hardy than shrubs**, which means they are **better suited to milder climates**.
- A **shrub**, on the other hand, is a **woody plant** that typically has **multiple stems or branches**.
 - Shrubs are often used in **landscaping and gardening** because of their **hardiness and versatility**.
 - They are often used as **hedges** or as a **backdrop for other plants in a garden**.

Source: **TH**

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