

Stellaria Bengalensis

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About Stellaria Bengalensis:

- It is the **annual herb plant** of the genus *Stellaria* (family Caryophyllaceae).
- It was found growing on **muddy soil slopes — at altitudes of 2,245-2,450 metres** in the Sangser forest, Kalimpong.
- **Characteristics**
 - It is an annual herb growing to a height of 8 to 10.5 cm, characterised by **white flowers, absence of bract**, shorter petals (or included within the sepal), sharp and pointed seeds.
 - Flowering and fruiting occurs during May to September.
- India has around 22 *Stellaria* species **mostly distributed in the Himalayan region**.
- The researchers have for the time being assessed the new species as '**data deficient**' under International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria.
- Other species *Stellaria mcclintockiae*, of the same genus, was found on Nelliampathy Hills of Kerala.

Q1: What is IUCN?

The International Union for Conservation of Nature is a global organization composed of governments, NGOs, scientists, and experts dedicated to conserving nature and promoting sustainability.

Source: TH

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