

Pedicularis rajeshiana

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Pedicularis rajeshiana Latest News

Recently, researchers have discovered a new plant species, Pedipularis rajeshiana, in the high-altitude regions of Rohtang Pass in the western Himalayas region.

About Pedicularis rajeshiana

- It belongs to a group of plants **known as “Louseworts”, which are hemiparasitic**, meaning they derive **some nutrients from other plants** while still **performing photosynthesis**.
- The plant was found at an altitude of **4,390 metres** (about 14,400 feet) in the **Rohtang Pass**, a rugged and ecologically rich area in **Himachal Pradesh**.
- Pedicularis rajeshiana was spotted growing in small, scattered patches in shaded rocky slopes.
- This discovery was made during a plant survey under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEF&CC) and the Botanical Survey of India, as part of the **“Flora of India” project**.

Features of Pedicularis rajeshiana

- India is home to **83 known species of Pedicularis**, with 36 species found in the western Himalayas alone.
- Due to their **parasitic nature** and specific habitat requirements, many of these plants are endemic — found only in certain regions.
- The identification of *Pedicularis rajeshiana* adds to this rich biodiversity and highlights the ecological significance of high-altitude Himalayan ecosystems.

Pedicularis rajeshiana FAQs

Q1: What is Pedicularis used for?

Ans: Pedicularis appears as flowering flames of red in early spring. Traditionally used as a muscle relaxant and calming agent.

Q2: What is the common name for Pedicularis canadensis?

Ans: Pedicularis canadensis, called common lousewort or wood betony

Source: **TOI**

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