

Garciniakusumae

July 4, 2025 • vajiramandravi.com



Garciniakusumae Latest News

Recently, botanists discovered a new garcinia species in Assam and named it as Garciniakusumae.

About Garciniakusumae

- It is a **new tree species** belonging to the **genus Garcinia**, commonly referred to as thoikora in **Assamese**.

Features of Garciniakusumae

- It is a **dioecious evergreen tree** that can grow up to 18 metres tall, Garcinia kusumae was observed to flower **from February to April**, with fruit maturing between May and June.
- Morphological analysis revealed distinguishing characteristics, including up to 15 staminate flowers per fascicle, fewer stamens per flower (except in Garcinia assamica), and berries with blackish resinous exudations.
- The **fruit** holds local **cultural and medicinal value**.

- According to the study, the **sun-dried pulp** is used to **prepare a sherbet** (soft drink) with salt and sugar, consumed during hot days to prevent heat stroke and alleviate thirst.
- It is also used in curries with fish and employed as a traditional remedy for diabetes and dysentery.
- The seed aril, slightly sour and sweet, is eaten raw, often with salt, chillies, and a dash of mustard oil.

Key Facts about Garcinia

- Garcinia, the largest genus in the **family Clusiaceae**, comprises 414 species of shrubs and trees.
- It is Pan-tropically distributed, its centres of diversity are found in **Africa, Australasia, and Southeast Asia**.
- The genus is known for its **floral diversity**, frequent presence in lowland **tropical rainforests**, and considerable pharmacological potential.
- In India, 33 species and seven varieties of Garcinia have been documented, with Assam accounting for 12 species and three varieties.

Source: **TH**

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