

Arisaema siahaense

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Arisaema siahaense Latest News

Researchers recently discovered a new species of Cobra Lily hidden within the rugged, misty mountains of Northeast India.

About Arisaema siahaense

- It is a new species of **Cobra Lily**.
- It was discovered in the Siaha District of **Mizoram**.
- It is an **evergreen herb** that can grow up to 1.08 meters (about 3.5 feet) tall.
- It **belongs to a group of plants** commonly known as **Cobra Lilies** because their **flowering structure (the spathe) resembles a cobra's hood**.
- What makes this specific species **unique** is its spadix appendix, a **long, slender growth that emerges from the flower**.
- In this new species, the **appendix is exceptionally long**, reaching up to 21 centimetres, and is **covered in brownish-green, hair-like bristles**.

- Unlike its closest relatives found in China and Southeast Asia, this plant **grows from a rounded tuber** rather than a creeping rootstock and features **leaves divided into exactly three segments**.
- The plant's name, **siahaense**, is a **tribute to the Siaha District** where it was first found.
- Specifically, the naming **recognises the commitment of local communities**, such as the **Kompa family**, who have worked tirelessly to preserve the biodiversity of their ancestral lands.
- Although it is currently **classified as Data Deficient by international standards**, the scientists observed that its habitat is under pressure from road construction, grazing animals like goats and mithuns, and the spread of invasive weeds.

Source: RM

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