

# 2 new Ginger species found in the northeast

*Hedychium chingmeianum* was located in Nagaland, while *Caulokaempferia* was found in Manipur

SHIV SAHAY SINGH  
KOLKATA

Scientists have discovered two new species of Ginger in easternmost districts, Ukhrul in Manipur and Tuensang in Nagaland, both bordering Myanmar.

*Hedychium chingmeianum*, the species discovered in Tuensang district, is an epiphytic plant and grows on tall trees, while *Caulokaempferia dinabandhuensis* was found growing in rock crevices, boulders and humus rich soil in the Shirui Hills, where the highest peak stands at an elevation of 2,938 metres.

Both the plants are from the family of *Zingiberaceae*,



*Caulokaempferia dinabandhuensis* and *Hedychium chingmeianum*. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

to which the commonly found Ginger (*Zingiber officinale*) belongs.

Two Botanical Survey of India (BSI) scientists, Nripen Odyou and Dilip Kumar

Roy, found the plant *Hedychium chingmeianum*, growing on tree trunks at Chingmei village in Tuensang district.

The plant, with reddish

stems and creamy white flowers, was brought to the regional centre of BSI, Shillong, and cultivated there.

## Paper published

A paper on the discovery was published earlier this year in *Telopea*, an international Journal of Plant Systematics.

“Most of the species under the genus *Hedychium* have medicinal properties. It is yet to be ascertained whether the newly discovered species *Hedychium chingmeianum* has medicinal properties or not,” Mr. Odyou told *The Hindu*.

He said that out 44 taxa, 31 species and 13 varieties of ge-

nus *Hedychium* found in India, only five are reported in south India. The remaining species are all found in the northeast.

The species *Caulokaempferia dinabandhuensis* was discovered by Biseshwori Thongam and Bipin Kongsam of the Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development. The species has beautiful oval-shaped pink flowers which appear in June-July.

It was during a trip to Ukhrul hills that Dinabandhu Sahoo, director of the IBSD, spotted this species.

The scientists named the species after Mr. Dinabandhu Sahoo.