Print Media Interpretation!

'Two plant species now extinct in the wild'

Study blames climate change, human interference for disappearance; they were found 125 years ago

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Two species of plants first collected by botanists more than 125 years ago from Meghalaya and the Andaman Islands are now extinct in the wild, according to a new paper published in the Jour-nal of Threatened Taxa. Classified under the genus Boesenbergia, the species belong to the family of Zin-

belong to the family of Zin giberacceae, the ginger family of flowering plants. Boesenbergia rubrolutea was first collected from the Khasi Hills, Thera, in Meghalaya an October 10, 1886. Specimens of *Boesenbergia albolutea* left) and *Boesenbergia rubrolutea* (right). *sPECIAL ARRANGEMENT mate change, human interfe-rence and overexploitation Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England, in 1889. Possible reasons for their disappearance include cli-

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bergia albolutea and Boesen-bergia rubrolutea are also among the least explored species of the genus Boesenspecies of the genus Boesen-bergia, the paper said. Ten species of this genus, includ-ing the two cited above, have been reported in India.

Field visits

Field visits The authors have recom-mended listing them as 'bain the Wild (EW) (UCK) object of the Wild (EW) (UCK) obj

nomic revision of the family Zingiberaceae, also failed to spot even a single specimen of these species, it adds.

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1995 paper The paper further notes that in 1995, botanists S.K. Jain and Ved Prakash, on the ba-sis of available literature, re-

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Understanding science communication & the importance of fact check. The slip between the cup and the lip THE HINDU article on 09 December 2021

1. The main heading - 'Two plant species now extinct in the wild' based on a publication in the Journal of Threatened Taxa (JoTT) seems misleading. The authors of the paper recommended to assign these species under the IUCN Red List category as 'Extinct in the Wild' (EW). The status is not true until it is accepted on theIUCN Red List.

2. The sub heading - Study blames climate change, human interference for dissappearance; they were found 125 years ago. This was never mentioned in JoTT and the authors do not blame but they have mentioned the possible reasons for the disappearance of these species.

While reporting on a public platform like print media one needs to be very cautious on the use of words and provide accurate information.

> Ashritha Anoop **RHATC 2021-22**