

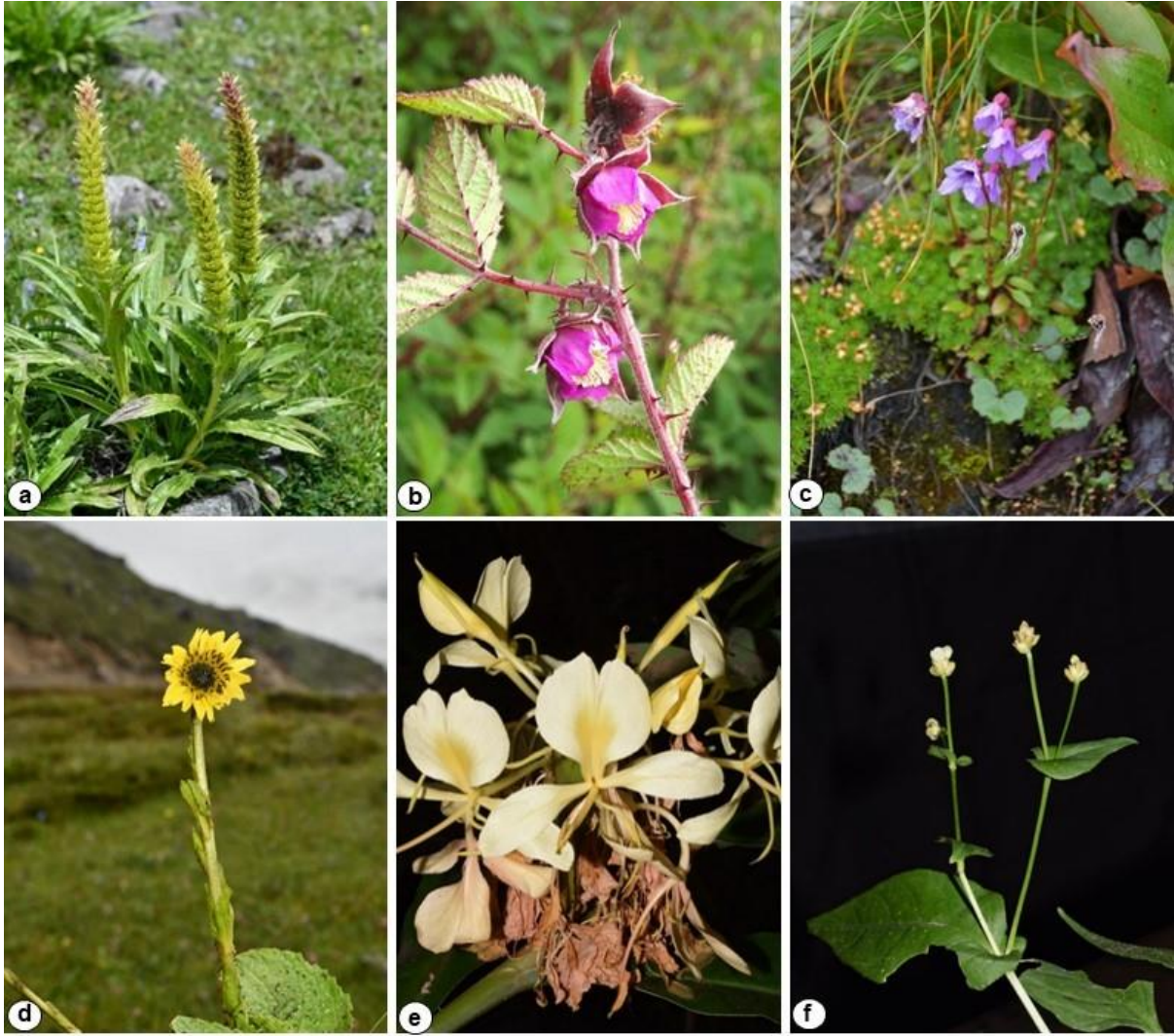
## Taxonomic Novelties from the Himalaya

In terms of biodiversity perspective, CSIR-IHBT has a mandate on resource mapping including taxonomy and herbarium, digitization, and conserving Himalayan bioresources vis-à-vis understanding plant strategies and functions for its sustainable utilization. Since the establishment of CSIR-IHBT, the institute has been engaged in the survey, identification, and conservation of the floral resources of Himalaya. Institute has mandate on resource mapping including taxonomy and herbarium and conserving Himalayan bioresources for its sustainable utilization. Institute has reported many taxonomic novelties which are provided below.

*Morina ludlowii* (M.J. Cannon) D.Y. Hong (family Caprifoliaceae) was originally described as *Cryptothladia ludlowii* by M.J. Cannon in 1984 based on a few collections from Bhutan, China and India. It is a threatened and endemic species of Himalaya. Surprisingly, this species was not mentioned in any Indian literature. The present collection from Arunachal Pradesh in 2022 represents the rediscovery of *Morina ludlowii* after a gap of 84 years<sup>1</sup>. Similarly, *Rubus sikkimensis* Hook.f. belongs to family Rosaceae, was originally described by Sir J.D. Hooker based on his collections made in 1849 from Lachen valley of Sikkim. A few populations of this species was located in Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh, which represent a new distributional record for Arunachal Pradesh. While studying the herbarium, a specimen of this species was also traced which was collected from Sikkim in 2019 thereby representing the rediscovery of this species after a gap of 170 years<sup>2</sup>.

A few notable discoveries were also made for India. Species, *Saxifraga bergenioides* C. Marquand (family Saxifragaceae) was earlier reported from Bhutan and China, now collected from alpine region of Arunachal Pradesh and reported as a new distributional record for flora of India<sup>3</sup>. Similarly, *Cremanthodium nepalense* Kitam. (family Asteraceae) a Himalayan sunflower also recorded the first time from India (Sikkim) at 4370 m. it was earlier recorded from Nepal and China only<sup>4</sup>. Moreover, *Impatiens falcifera* Hook.f. (family Balsaminaceae) were reported for the first time from Arunachal Pradesh<sup>5</sup> whereas, *Acronema hookeri* (C.B.Clarke) H.Wolff [family Apiaceae] and *Hedychium flavescens* Carey ex Roscoe (family Zingiberaceae) and *Persicaria microcephala* (D.Don) H.Gross (family Polygonaceae) were also reported new to Himachal Pradesh<sup>6,7</sup>.

1. Kumar, R, Krishna G, Kumar V (2023). Rediscovery of *Morina ludlowii* Caprifoliaceae): An overlooked species from India. *Phytotaxa* 591 (2): 177–180.
2. Kumar, V (2023). Rediscovery of *Rubus sikkimensis* Hook. f. from Northeast India and lectotypification of its name. *Turczaninowia* 26, 4: 16–21.
3. Kumar, R, Kumar V (2023). Notes on the distribution and typification of *Saxifraga bergenioides* (Saxifragaceae). *Phytotaxa* 595 (2): 236–239.
4. Kumar, R, Kumar V (2023). A new distributional report of *Cremanthodium nepalense* (Asteraceae) in India: A vulnerable and endemic species of the Himalayas. *Plant Science Today*. 11(1): 76–80.
5. Kumar, R, Kumar, A., Kumar V\*. 2023. Notes on distribution of *Acronema hookeri* (Apiaceae) and *Impatiens falcifera* (Balsaminaceae) in Arunachal Pradesh, India. *Plant Science Today* 10: 52–55.
6. Parkash Om, Kumar V, Uniyal SK (2021). *Persicaria microcephala* (Polygonaceae)-A new distributional record for Himachal Pradesh, India. *Indian Journal of Forestry* 44(4): 160-161.
7. Parkash Om, Kumar V, Uniyal SK (2021). *Hedychium flavescens* (Zingiberaceae) – A new record to the flora of Himachal Pradesh, India. *Indian Journal of Forestry* 44(1): 23-25.



Taxonomic novelties; a. *Morina ludlowii* (M.J. Cannon) D.Y. Hong; b. *Rubus sikkimensis* Hook.f.; c. *Saxifraga bergenioides* C. Marquand; d. *Cremanthodium nepalense* Kitam.; e. *Hedychium flavescens* Carey ex Roscoe; f. *Persicaria microcephala* (D. Don) H. Gross