



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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New flowering plant species discovered in Aravalli hills near Jaipur

Published On: 17-06-2025

Context

- A new flowering plant species with unusual morphological characteristics has been discovered in the **rocky and semi-arid landscape of Aravali hills near Jaipur**, shedding light on the region's hidden biodiversity.
- Classified as *Portulaca bharat*, the plant adds to the list of Indian **endemics**.
- With no other populations currently known, *Portulaca bharat* has been provisionally assessed as “**data deficient**” under the **International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List** guidelines.
- The plant's narrow endemism and specific habitat requirements make it **highly vulnerable to habitat degradation and climate change**.
- The **genus Portulaca** currently comprises about **153 species worldwide**, primarily found in **tropical and subtropical regions**.
- These plants are known for their **toughness, water-storing tissues, and adaptation to extreme environments**.
- **In India, 11 species are currently known**, including **four endemics**, mostly distributed in **dry and semi-arid habitats**



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