



Pyrostria laljii

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- A 15-metre-tall tree that belongs to the genus of the coffee family has been discovered from the Andaman Islands in June 2021. **The new species is also the first record of the genus Pyrostria in India.** Plants belonging to the genus Pyrostria are usually found in Madagascar.
- The new species, **Pyrostria laljii** was first reported from the **Wandoor forest in South Andaman**. The other places in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands where the tree could be located are the Tirur forest near the Jarawa Reserve Forest and the Chidia Tapu forest.
- The tree is distinguished by a long stem with a whitish coating on the trunk and oblong-obovate leaves with a cuneate base. Its umbellate inflorescence with 8 to 12 flowers distinguish the tree from other species of the genus.
- Pyrostria laljii **has been assessed as 'Critically Endangered' based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List criteria.**
- The species has been named Pyrostria laljii after Lal Ji Singh, Joint Director and Head of Office, Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre, Botanical Survey of India.

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