



Glycosmis Albicarpa

Why in News

A team of scientists from the [Botanical Survey of India \(BSI\)](#) has discovered a **new gin berry species** named ***Glycosmis albicarpa*** from the **Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary** in Tamil Nadu.

- BSI, established in 1890, is the **apex research organisation under the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEFCC)** for carrying out taxonomic and floristic studies on wild plant resources of the country.
- It has the objective to explore plant resources of the country and to identify plant species with economic virtues.

What Is Glycosmis Albicarpa?

- The species is **endemic to the southern [Western Ghats](#)**.
- The species **belongs to the Orange family, Rutaceae**. //



- Many of the related plants of these taxonomic groups are being utilised for their **medicinal values** and food.
- Most commonly related species of these plants are collected from the wild, mainly for local use as food and medicine.
- Berries of Glycosmis species have the **unique characteristic of 'gin aroma' and have gained in popularity as an edible fruit**.
- The species is also a **larval host plant for butterflies like other species** of Glycosmis.

What are the Key Points Related to Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary?

- Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary is a **402.4 km² protected area in Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu**.
 - The virgin forests of Kanyakumari District were **transferred from Kerala to Tamil Nadu on the 1st November 1956** as a result of the state reorganisation.
- Kanyakumari Forest Division came into existence from 1st April 1977.
- Kanyakumari Wildlife sanctuary with adjacent areas of **Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve and [Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary](#) of Kerala State** constitutes the southernmost tip of Western Ghats.
 - It is a **[tiger habitat](#)**. There are seven rivers that originate in this forest.

- The natural vegetation of this region represents **biomes ranging from southern thorn forests, dry deciduous, moist deciduous, semi evergreen forests** to ever green hill sholas with grassy downs.
 - The **Shola forests** of South India derive their name from the Tamil word solai, which means a **'tropical rainforest'**.
 - The Sholas are found in the upper reaches of the Nilgiris, Anamalais, Palni hills, Kalakadu, Mundanthurai and Kanyakumari in the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- The tract is exceedingly **rich in wildlife harbouring a variety of animals such as [Indian bison](#), [elephants](#), [rock pythons](#), [lion tailed macaques](#)** etc. The avifauna, the reptilian and amphibian fauna of this region are also rich and diverse.
- This tip of the Indian peninsula is a unique geographic point surrounded by **all three of the sub-continent's vast oceans - the Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea.**

Protected Areas in Tamil Nadu





PYQ

Recently, our scientists have discovered a new and distinct species of banana plant which attains a height of about 11 metres and has orange coloured fruit pulp. In which part of India has it been discovered?

(2016)

- (a) Andaman Islands
- (b) Anaimalai Forests
- (c) Maikala Hills
- (d) Tropical rain forests of northeast

Ans: (a)

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