Globba andersonii

A team of researchers from Pune and Kerala have “rediscovered” a rare and critically endangered plant species called Globba andersonii. It is rediscovered from the Sikkim Himalayas near the Teesta river valley region after a gap of nearly 136 years.

The plant, known commonly as ‘dancing ladies’ or ‘swan flowers’ was thought to have been extinct until its “re-collection”, for the first time since 1875. Classified as “critically endangered” and “narrowly endemic”.

The species is restricted mainly to Teesta River Valley region which includes the Sikkim Himalayas and Darjeeling hill ranges. Globba andersonii are characterized by white flowers, non-appendage anthers (the part of a stamen that contains the pollen) and a “yellowish lip”.