



Uniyala Keralensis

[Source: TH](#)

Researchers have confirmed the existence of a new plant species, *Uniyala keralensis* (family **Asteraceae**), in the [Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve](#) in Kerala.

About Uniyala Keralensis:

- **Genus:** Uniyala
- **Plant Type:** Dense shrub with light purple flowers, growing 1-3m tall with **flowering & fruiting** between August and April.
- **Distinct Features:** Larger leaves, longer petioles, and fewer lateral veins than *U. comorinensis* & *U. salviifolia*.
- **Distribution:** Endemic to **southwest India**, found in **Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve** at 700-1,400m elevation.
- **Population:** Around **5,000 individuals** across 4 subpopulations over 250 km².
- **IUCN Status:** **Data Deficient (DD)**



Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve:

- **Location:** **Southern Western Ghats**, spanning Kerala & Tamil Nadu.
- **Protected Areas:** Includes **Shendurney, Peppara, Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuaries & Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve**.
- **Biodiversity:** Hosts **2,254 higher plant species (405 endemic)**, Nilgiri Tahr, Lion-tailed Macaque, Bengal Tiger, Indian Elephant.
- **Tribes:** Kani tribes (Kerala and Tamil Nadu)



AGASTHYAMALA BIOSPHERE RESERVE

FACT FILE

- Established in 2001
- Area **3,500.36 sq km**
- Area in Kerala **1,828 sq km**
- Area in Tamil Nadu **1672.36 sq km**



Between
8° 8' and
9° 10' North Latitude,
76° 52' and 77° 34'
East Longitude

- Home to 2,254 species of higher plants
- About 400 endemic to the area

▪ **18**
biosphere
reserves in
India

▪ **9** included
in UNESCO
network

**Population in tribal
settlements 3,000**

- Sanctuaries in the reserve
- Shendurney, Peppara, Neyyar wildlife sanctuaries
- Kalakad Mundanthurai tiger reserve

Read More: [Invasive Alien Species](#) , [Planting of Exotic Trees in Nilgiris is Harmful](#)

