



## Euphaea wayanadensi

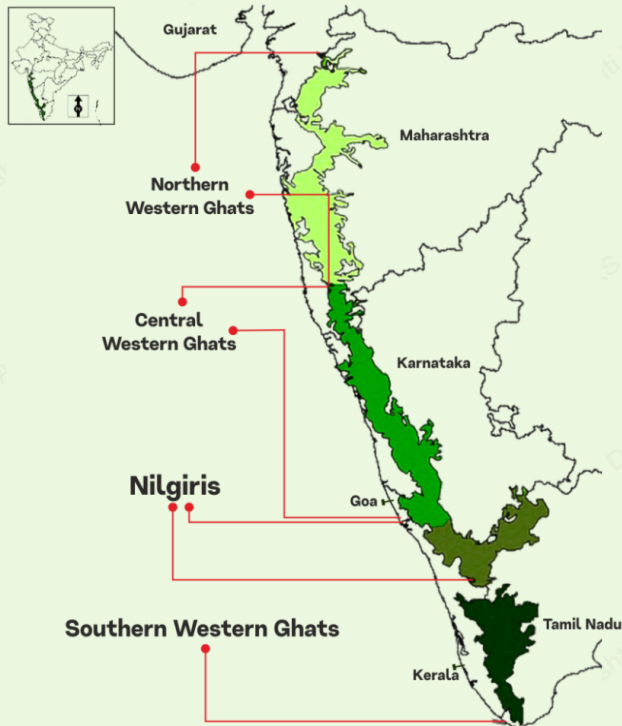
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A new damselfly species, *Euphaea wayanadensis*, has been discovered in Kerala's **Wayanad region of the [Western Ghats](#)**, marking an important addition to India's **biodiversity records**.

- **Scientific Significance:** The species is **Kerala's 191st odonate species** and the **223rd recorded species** in the Western Ghats.
- **Unique Characteristics:** Longer black patch on hind wings, especially in males, setting it apart visually.
  - Broader and uninterrupted humeral and antehumeral stripes in the thorax region of males, which are key taxonomic identifiers.
- **Habitat Preferences:** The species prefers **fast-flowing rocky streams** with **aquatic vegetation** in areas surrounded by **evergreen and semi-evergreen forests**.
  - Observed year-round except in the **dry season (March-April)**, it has a **highly restricted distribution**, necessitating **conservation measures**.

# Western Ghats

One of the four biodiversity hotspots of India; recognised as a UNESCO WHS (2012)



## Names

- » Sahyadri - northern Maharashtra; Sahya Parvatham - Kerala

## Diverted views about Mt. type

- » View 1: Block Mt. formed due to down warping of a part of land into Arabian Sea
- » View 2: Not true mt. rather the faulted edge of Deccan Plateau

## Major Rocks

- » Basalt, granite gneiss, khondalites, metamorphic gneisses, crystalline limestone, iron ore

## Geographical Extent

- » Satpura (in north) to the end of TN at Kanyakumari (in south)

## Mt. Ranges

- » Nilgiri ranges, Shevaroys and Tirumala range
- » Highest peak - Anamudi (Kerala)

## Rivers (originating)

- » West-flowing: Periyar, Bharathappuzha, Netravati, Sharavathi, Mandovi
- » East-flowing: Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri, Tunga, Bhadra, Bhima, Malaprabha, Ghataprabha, Hemavathi, Kabini

## Endemic Species

- » Nilgiri tahr (IUCN Status - EN)
- » Lion-tailed macaque (IUCN Status - EN)

## Imp Protected Areas

- » Biosphere Reserves - Agasthyamala and Nilgiri
- » NP - Silent Valley, Bandipur, Eravikulam, Wayanad-Mudumalai, Nagarhole
- » TR - Kalakad-Mundanthurai, Periyar

## Imp Passes

- » Thal Ghat Pass (Kasara Ghat)
- » Bhore Ghat Pass
- » Palakkad Gap (Pal Ghat)
- » Amba Ghat Pass
- » Naneghat Pass
- » Amboli Ghat Pass

## Significance

- » Hydroelectricity production
- » Influences Indian monsoon weather patterns
- » Carbon sequestration (neutralise ~4 MT of carbon every year)
- » One of the 8 global hottest hotspots of biodiversity (due to richness in species and endemism)
- » Rich in iron, manganese and bauxite ores, timber, pepper, cardamom, oil palm and rubber
- » Sizeable indigenous population (including PVTGs)
- » Important tourism/pilgrimage centres

## Major Threats

- » Mining, Industrialisation
- » Massive extraction of forest produce
- » Human-wildlife conflict, encroachment, illegal hunting
- » Livestock grazing, deforestation
- » Large hydropower projects
- » Climate change

## Imp Committees

- » Gadgil Committee (2011) (Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel)
  - » Recommendation: All of WG be declared as Ecological Sensitive Area (ESA) with only limited development allowed in graded zones.
- » Kasturirangan Committee (2013)
  - » Recommendation: Instead of whole, only 37% of the total area of WG be brought under ESA + complete ban on mining, quarrying and sand mining be imposed in ESA.



Read more: [Platygomphus Benitarum](#)

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