

Scientists find new plant in Fiji

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A picture released on January 19 by the International Union for Conservation of Nature in Gland shows a new flowering plant belonging to the *Medinilla* plant group discovered in the highlands of Matasawalevu village, on the island of Kadavu in Fiji. The plant was found during a biodiversity assessment of the Nakasaleka district carried out as part of IUCN's Water and Nature Initiative.

Scientists have discovered a new flowering plant belonging to the scarce *Medinilla* group on Fiji's Kadavu island, the International Union for Conservation of Nature said on Friday.

"Although the plant was first found in August of 2010, it has taken this long to go through the process and verify it," IUCN spokeswoman Ewa Magiera told AFP.

The plant was found during a biodiversity assessment of the Nakasaleka district carried out as part of IUCN's Water and Nature Initiative (WANI), Magiera said.

There are some 193 known species of *Medinilla* in Madagascar, Africa, [South Asia](#) and the Pacific Islands, according to the conservation body.

Eleven can only be found in Fiji, among them the *Tagimoucia* flower, the country's floral emblem.

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