



**THE NATIONAL TRUST – SRI LANKA**

## **“Sri Lanka's Amazing Biodiversity: Tracing the Plants Through Butterflies”**

**By  
Dr. Himesh Jayasinghe**

**The Monthly Lecture Series No: 172 of the National Trust**

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at 6.00 pm**

**at the Auditorium of the College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka,  
No. 6, Independence Avenue, Colombo 7.**

(For those who join online: [https://youtube.com/live/0\\_qC7mho9IU?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/0_qC7mho9IU?feature=share))

Butterflies feed on plants at two stages of their life cycle. Adult butterflies feed on the nectar of flowers, which also pollinates them in turn. However, butterfly larva are pests; each species feeding on a unique plant or a plant group. In his research, Dr. Jayasinghe has studied larval food plants of butterflies, which hasn't been carried out in detail until now. This was challenging as there are almost no illustrated publications on Sri Lankan flora. Continuous field studies and herbarium studies were carried out. The team discovered many flowering plants that have not been reported in more than in a century, and were thought to be extinct in the wild. More than 200 of these plant species were recently published in his new book 'Discovery: Additions to the Flora of Ceylon'.



Dr. Himesh Jayasinghe is a Research Fellow (Plant taxonomy and Conservation) at National Institute of Fundamental Studies. Holds a PhD (Plant Molecular Systematics), Faculty of Science, University of Colombo, B.Sc. Engineering, University of Moratuwa.

**The National Trust – Sri Lanka conducts monthly lectures generally on the last working Thursday of each month. The lectures are open to the members and the general public.**

Further information can be obtained from the Trust Office Tel.0112682730/ 0719566929