

**Field trip to Mawmuthoh, Smit  
On the 16<sup>th</sup> of September, 2017**

Mawmuthoh is a small locality in the village of Smit which is 12 km away from the city of Shillong. Mawmuthoh is known for having an isolated population of a rare water lily called *Nymphaea tetragona* confined to a pond. In the Indian sub continent, the Pygmy water-lily, *Nymphaea tetragona* is found only in Mawmuthoh, Meghalaya although it is found in the Indo china border, where it is used by the Buddhists as an 'offering flower' and hence conserved as a 'ritual plant' in temple gardens. The plant has showy white to pinkish flowers and in the past, the rhizome has been used locally to cure acute diarrhoea and dysentery and was also used to join bone fractures by tribal practitioners. Since this plant fails to regenerate in nature because of incomplete development of the embryos and high susceptibility to pests and insects, the plant population is on the verge of extinction with only 20-30 plants remaining in the pond. The department of Botany had therefore found it interesting and important for the students to witness and study the plant.



**Students by the pond**



*Nymphaea tetragona* in the pond