During this month our scientists discovered two new Sino - Himalayan genera named as *Shivaparvatia* and *Himgiria* belonging to the family Caryophyllaceae and four new species of wild mush-rooms, *Lactarius* from Himalayas viz., *L. olivaceoglutinus*, *L. pyriodorus*, *L. yumthangensis* and *L. indocheysorrheus*. The ITS data suggests that these new wild mushrooms are closely related to certain European and American species.

A rare and endemic variety of *Trigonostemon viridissimus* is recollected by the scientists of BSI after 70 years from South Garo Hills district of Meghalaya. The field assessment ascertained that the area of occupancy and population status of this endemic taxon is on continuous decline. The bryophyte member, *Bazzania hainanensis* (Hepaticae), collected from Mizoram, forms the new record for India.

The scientists of various units and centres of BSI conducted field exploration tours to various phytogeographical regions and collected nearly 650 field numbers of vascular plant samples for floristic studies. Besides, 90 algal samples were collected from the various localities of the Hazaribagh and Khunti districts of Jharkhand.

An interesting research note has been published by our scientist on *Valeriana jatamansi* and *Selinum vaginatum* used as substitute for *Nardostachys jatamansi* in preparation of neuroprotective drugs.

Happy browsing!

**Paramjit Singh**  
Director, Botanical Survey of India
Dr. R.K. Gupta, Scientist ‘D’ conducted field tour to Hazaribagh and Khunti districts of Jharkhand from 30.03.2015 to 10.04.2015 and collected 90 algal samples from various localities including thermophilic algae from the thermal spring.

In connection with the ‘Studies on wild mushrooms of Sikkim’, ‘Revision of the family Metzgeriaceae in India’ (Bryophyte) and ‘Wood rotting fungi of Rajmahal hills’ identifications, descriptions and illustrations are being made by the Scientists and Scientific staff of Cryptogamic unit.

**Scanning Electron Microscopy**

Dr. Devendra Singh, Scientist ‘C’, Cryptogamic unit micrographed thalli and spores of 14 species of liverworts and hornworts by using SEM installed at CNH.
Dr. R.K. Gupta acted as an external examiner for 3rd semester practical exam of M. Sc. Botany students at P.G. Department of Botany, Berhampur University, Berhampur, Odisha on 15th April 2015. Dr. A.B.D. Selvam, Scientist ‘D’ studied and authenticated pharmacognostically leaf powder of *Cannabis sativa* (Cannabinaceae) received from the Officer-In-charge, Purulia G.R.P.S., West Bengal and from the Office-In-Charge, Adra G.R.P.S., Purulia District, West Bengal. Dr. Selvam also studied and authenticated pharmacognostically 16 wood samples as the heartwood of *Pterocarpus santalinus* (Leguminosae: Papilionoideae), which were received from Regional Deputy Director, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, Eastern Region, Kolkata. Further, Dr. Selvam evaluated a Ph.D. Thesis entitled, “Pharmacognostical, Phytochemical and Pharmacological studies on *Monstera adansonii* Schott. and *Diffenbachia picta* Schott. (Araceae)” received from University of Madras.

Dr. Kanad Das, reviewed a manuscript for the journal *Phytotaxa*. Dr. Das also delivered a lecture on “Identification of Wild Mushrooms” at Bodoland University, Assam on 22nd April 2015.

**Visitors/students**

Dr. Brijesh Kumar, Bot. Asst. and Dr. Pushpesh Joshi, AJCBPDF, Northern Regional Centre, Botanical Survey of India visited Cryptogamic unit for herbarium consultation of the genus *Lepisorus* and family Ophioglossaceae.

**Publications**


**AJC BOSE INDIAN BOTANICAL GARDEN, HOWRAH**

Dr. M.U. Sharief, Scientist ‘E’ and Dr. B.K. Singh, Sr. Pres. Asst. collected orchid plants from Sikkim Himalaya for ex-situ conservation in the garden. They were introduced in the Mist Chamber and few of them flowered in the controlled conditions. Dr. Pushpa Kumari introduced *Gigantochloa andamanica*, *Schizostachyum andamanicum* and *S. kurzii*, which were collected from Andaman and Nicobar Islands and seeds/propagules of *Mangifera griffithii*, *Musa sp.*, *Diospyros kurzii* collected from Andaman and Nicobar are kept in Nursery I of AJCBIBG for germination. Seeds of *Amhrestia nobilis*, *Strychnos nux-vomica*, *Bauhinia acuminata* were collected from the garden for germination.
Visitors/students
Students from different schools and academic institutions visited the botanic garden.

Publication

CENTRAL NATIONAL HERBARIUM, HOWRAH

Sri Anant Kumar and Sri Gopal Krishna, Sr. Pres. Assts. are presently conducting field tour from 23.04.2015 to Aurangabad, Nawada and Baanka districts of Bihar.

For the ongoing projects, ‘Flora of Buxa Wildlife Sanctuary’, ‘Flora of Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary’, ‘Flora of Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Wildlife Sanctuary’ and ‘Flora of Gautam Buddha Wildlife Sanctuary’, the specimens collected from earlier tours are being identified and the descriptions are also being made by the Scientists and scientific staff.
Public service rendered
Sent 4 scanned images of the type of *Mezoneuron andamanicum* (Leguminosae-Caesalpinioideae) to Ms. Ruth Clark, Research Fellow, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England; 38 scanned images of 18 species of *Artabotrys* to Dr. Pankaj Kumar, Conservation Officer, Orchid Conservation Section, Kadourie Farm and Botanic Garden (KFBG) Corporation, Hong Kong; 06 scanned images of authentic specimens of *Ligularia yakla* and *Ligularia amplexicaulis* to Sri Long Wang, postgraduate Student, South China Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Science, Beijing; and scanned image of Holotype of *Jatropha nana* var. *benghalense* to Mr. Ashish Narlekar, PG student, Department of Biodiversity, Babasaheb Garware College, Pune.

Dr. Lakshminarasimhan, Scientist ‘E’ & HoO reviewed a manuscript on Melastomataceae received from *Bangladesh Journal of Plant Taxonomy*. Dr. Subir Bandyopadhyay, Scientist ‘B’ provided PDF/ images of 24 pages from various publications of M. Chandrabose and V. Chandrasekaran to Dr. K.N. Gandhi, Harvard University herbaria, USA. Dr. Bandyopadhyay also provided information regarding authors of 4 plant names [Sri Lalawmkima Darlong, Dr. Debjyoti Bhattacharyya, Dr. Deepa Mishra and Dr. Pratibha Jalmi] for incorporation in the Author Query database of IPNI.

Sri Anand Kumar prepared “List of Threatened and Rare Plants of Bihar and Jharkhand” in connection with the introduction in Botanic Garden, T.M. Bhagalpur University, Bhagalpur.

Identified total 76 plant samples, which were from the excise department and other institutes and organization for identification / authentication.

Training imparted
Sri P.P. Ghoshal, Botanist and Sri Anand Kumar, Bot. Asst. provided training to Dr. Swarnalatha, Bot. Asst. DRC, Hyderabad. Hand on training was given to deal with the digitization protocols and editing of scanned images in Photoshop.

Type specimens received
Received the Holotype (L. Darlong 10397) of *Phanera jampuiensis* along with 10 other herbarium sheets (L. Darlong 10398, L. Darlong 10443, L. Darlong 10353, 10380, L. Darlong 10375, L. Darlong 10474) and their publications from Dr. Debjyoti Bhattacharyya, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Life Science & Bioinformatics, Assam University, Silchar, Assam.

Visitors/students
Dr. A.N. Chandore, Dept. of Botany, Babasaheb Marathe College, Rajapur, Dist. Ratnagiri, Maharashtra; Rahara Ramakrishna Mission, 24-Parganas (8 M.Sc. students); Barasat Govt. College., North 24-Parganas (30 M.Sc. & B.Sc. students); Shibpur Dinabandhu College, Howrah (31 B. Sc. students).

**CENTRAL BOTANICAL LABORATORY, HOWRAH**

Ms. Sagari Chaudhury, JRF working on the project ‘Ethnobotanical study of Lodha (A primitive tribal Group) of West Bengal and nutraceutical analysis of selected plant species’ conducted a field tour to Paschim Medinipur district, West Bengal on 2nd April to 4th April, 2015. During this tour, 30 nos. of ethnobotanically important species were collected with the help of medicine man (Baidya or elder village people, priest, local Lodha people and Lodha women) from Talabaria, Dhorkholi, ‘Tapoban’ temple and ‘Chanda bila’ forest areas. Total 35 ethnobotanical uses were recorded, of which 20 are medicinal, 4 are food, 2 magico-religious, 1 poison and 8 are used for other purposes.
During this month, district wise final project reports on ethnobotanical study of Deogarh, Koraput, Ganjam and Jajpur were finalized and submitted by team leaders, Dr. Harish Singh, Scientist ‘D’ & HoO, Dr. (Ms.) K.A. Sujana, Scientist ‘C’, Sri A.C. Halder, Botanist and Sri P.K. Baske, Botanist respectively. Dr. (Ms.) Sujana and her team re-numbered 278 ethnobotanical museum materials and arranged scientifically. Ms. Sagari Chaudhury, JRF prepared a database of 75 herbarium sheets of family Vitaceae in CNH, Howrah.

Rajbhasha meeting
Dr. Harish Singh organized a Quarterly Rajbhasha Karyanwan Samiti meeting with 9 members at CBL office. Mrs. Monika Mishra presented minutes of last Rajbhasha Karyanwan Samiti meeting and quarterly report.

In connection with the database updating, herbarium specimens (68 no. dicots, 27 no. monocots) and specimens collected by I. H. Burkill (1000 nos.) were documented with relevant field notes and nomenclatural updates were made for the specimens with barcode nos. BSIS00033-BSIS00060.

In connection with the ongoing project on ‘Revision of Family Gesneriaceae of NE India’, ‘Flora of the Phawngpui Blue Mountain Peak, Mizoram’ and ‘Interpretation of Family Compositae in Icones Roxburghianae’ identification and interpretations were made by the scientific staff and a research scholar.

Photographic images from field tours of Jharkhand state were processed for display as value addition in Botanical Gallery [Abroma augusta (Sterculiaceae), Cassia occidentalis (Caesalpiniaceae)]

Publication

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR REGIONAL CENTRE, PORT BLAIR

For ‘Flora of Trinket Island’ and ‘Morphological and Molecular characterization of Memecylon L.’, 5 species of Angiosperms were identified. Besides, chemistry of 320 specimens of Lichens of Nicobar Islands were studied and phenological survey of Dhanikhari Experimental Garden cum Arboretum (DEGA) was continued.

Ex-situ Conservation
Ex-situ conservation of Artocarpus chaplasha, Calamus andamanicus, Calamus palustris, Cerbera manghas, Cycas zeylanica, Dicranopteris linearis, Diplanxium esculentum, Dipterocarpus griffithi, Dipterocarpus turbinatus, Eria andamanica, Eulophia andamanensis, Ganophyllum falcatum, Hedychium coronarium, Mimusops andamanensis, Myristica andamanica, Myristica elliptica, Terminalia manii, Musa indandamanensis, Tectaria polymorpha var. polymorpha etc. were carried out.
Meetings/ events attended
Dr. Lal Ji Singh, Scientist ‘D’ & HoO participated in inaugural function of Island Kisan Mela at CIARI, Port Blair on 09.04.2015 and in Farm Innovators Meet at CIARI, Port Blair on 10.04.2015. Dr. Lal Ji Singh attended research advisory committee meeting at Office of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Research & Working Plan, Haddo, Port Blair on 13.04.2015. Dr. Sanjay Mishra, Scientist ‘B’ attended the meeting of central government employees welfare coordination committee held on 28.04.2015.

Public service rendered
Dr. Lal Ji Singh reviewed 2 research papers for *The Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* and *African Journal of Biotechnology*.

Visitors/ students/trainees
Smt. Aparna Singh, Asst. Professor of JNRM College, Port Blair along with 2 faculty members and 84 students visited Dhanikhari Experimental Garden cum Arboretum (DEGA) on 09.04.2015. Dr. Lal Ji Singh, Scientist ‘D’ & HoO delivered lecture on Plant Diversity of Andaman and Nicobar Islands for the students. Two instructors along with 48 forest guard trainees of Forest Training Institute, Wimberligunj, South Andaman visited to Dhanikhari Experimental Garden cum Arboretum (DEGA) on 18.04.2015.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH REGIONAL CENTRE, ITANAGAR

Dr. P. Satyanarayana, Scientist ‘D’ and Sri B.B.T. Tham, Botanist identified specimens of 13 field numbers for Flora of Pakke Tiger Reserve and Wild Life sanctuary; Dr. Vineet Kumar Rawat, Scientist ‘C’ identified specimens of 5 field numbers for the family Polypodiaceae of North East India; Dr. Manish K. Kandwal, Scientist ‘C’ identified 7 field numbers for Grass flora of Arunachal Pradesh and Dr. Souravjyoti Borah, Botanist identified specimens of 15 field numbers for Flora of Lohit District and Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary.

*Primula calderiana*

*Tropical forests of Namdapha Tiger Reserve*
Sri Vinod Maina, Scientist ‘D’ and Sri Ravi Prasad, Bot. Asst. identified 15 plant species from their previous tour materials in connection with Ethnobotany of Dang District, Gujarat. Dr. S. L. Meena and Dr. Harikrishna Peddi also identified 25 plant species from their tour materials of Schoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary.

Ex-situ conservation
In connection with ex-situ conservation several species namely Acmella oleracea, Bixa orellana, Haldina cordifolia, Mitragyna parvifolia, Piper nigrum, Punica granatum, Sapindus laurifolius, Schleichera oleosa and Solanum indicum were introduced in the Botanic garden. Apart from the ex-situ conservation, seeds of Acacia chundra, Bauhinia racemosa, Diospyros melanoxylon, Pterocarpus marsupium var. acuminata, Sesbania grandiflora were sown for germination.

Public services rendered
Dr. S.L. Meena, Scientist ‘D’ attended the training programme of Forest Rangers at Saghai, Narmada District, Gujarat and delivered lectures on “BSI at a Glance”, “Biodiversity of Shoolpaneshwar WLS ” and “Herbarium methodology”. Besides, 121 plant specimens were identified for the students and researchers from various institutions.
In connection with flora of India project, ‘Revisionary studies on family Roccellaceae (Lichens)’ a field cum study tour was undertaken by Sri Siljo Joseph, SRF to Kerala and Tamil Nadu from 15th March to 17th April 2015. Fifteen field packets were collected along with collection of literature from the library of Bharathiar University, Coimbatore.

For ‘Flora of Chhattisgarh’, a herbarium cum library consultation tour was undertaken separately to Central National Herbarium, Howrah by Dr. A.P. Tiwari, Pres. Asst. from 29th March to 10th April 2015 and Sri R.K. Singh, Botanist from 6th March to 17th April 2015. In total, species under 31 field numbers were identified. Besides, details of 290 specimens of CAL pertaining to 180 species of Chhattisgarh were noted for incorporation in Chhattisgarh flora.

In connection with the ongoing projects on ‘Floral diversity of Upper Ganga Ramsar site, Uttar Pradesh’, ‘Floristic diversity of Parvati Aranga Wildlife Sanctuary and adjoining Tikri forest area, Gonda, Uttar Pradesh’ and ‘Lichens of Rajasthan, Kutch, Gujarat’, a total of 48 species with different field numbers were identified. Similarly, for the taxonomic studies on lichenised non thelotremoid Indian Graphidaceae, and lichens of Terai region, Uttar Pradesh 31 species were identified. In addition, a total of 111 earlier collected specimens housed at BSA were also identified.

**Ex-situ conservation**

One sapling each of *Elaeocarpus serratus* (Panchmukhi Rudraksh) and *Platanus orientalis* (Chinar) brought from a nursery of Dehradun, Uttarakhand were introduced in the garden.

**Symposia/ Seminar attended**

Sri Jeetendra Kumar Vaishya, SRF attended a national seminar on “GM Crops: Challenge to Environment and Health” organised by Dept. of Botany, University of Allahabad and *Swadeshi Jagran Manch*, Allahabad on 11.04.2015.

**Meeting attended**


**Public service rendered**

Identified 4 lichen specimens received from Dr. A. Tinabaye, Associate Prof. Kanchi Mamunivar Centre for P.G. Studies, Puducherry.

**Visitors/students**

Ms. Surabhi Ranavat, Ms. Sumayya Hassan and Sri R. Harikrishnan, Research scholars of IISER, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh consulted herbarium on 01.04.2015.

Ms. Jaswinder Kaur, Research Scholar, Dept. of Botany, University of Allahabad, Allahabad consulted BSA herbarium from 7th April to 13th April 2015.

**Publication**

DECCAN REGIONAL CENTRE, HYDERABAD

Ms. Annamma, JRF and Sri S. Nagaraju, Bot. Asst. conducted one day field tour to Mahavir Harina Vanasthal National Park on 15.04.2015.

Dr. P.V. Prasanna, Scientist ‘F’ documented 21 species from Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve. Dr. L. Rasingam, Scientist ‘C’ documented 12 species collected from Nagarjuna Sagar—Srisailam Tiger Reserve Wild Life Sanctuary. Dr. M. Ahmedullah, Scientist ‘E’ and Dr. M. Sankara Rao, Pres. Asst. compiled data collected from 3 sacred groves of East Godavari District.

Under the Flora of India Project, Sri Alok Chorghe, SRF prepared descriptions and photo plates for 9 grasses, Mr. K. Chandra Mohan, JRF identified 43 species from Satkosia Tiger Reserve, Miss. P. Annamma, JRF identified 16 species from Kawal Tiger Reserve. Dr. G. Swarnalatha, Bot. Asst. visited Central National Herbarium, Howrah from 18th April to 26th April 2015 to learn the herbarium digitisation techniques.

Public service rendered
Dr. P. Venu, Scientist ‘F’ reviewed one manuscript for the journal Rheedea and one for Phytotaxa. Dr. P.V. Prasanna and Sri Alok Chorghe communicated a write-up on ‘Grasses of Odisha’ to Odisha Biodiversity Board.

Publication

EASTERN REGIONAL CENTRE, SHILLONG

Identified 69 and documented 12 species from Flora of Eastern Nagaland (Mon, Tuensang, Kiphire & Longleng) by Dr. N. Odyuo, Scientist ‘D’ and Dr. R. Daimary, Bot. Asst.; Amchang WLS (Assam) by Mrs. Nandita Sarma, Sr. Presv. Asst.; Yangoupokpi Lokchao WLS (Manipur) by Sri L.R. Meitei, Bot. Asst. Final report of Murlen National Park, Mizoram was prepared and submitted to the Director, BSI.

Conservation of Threatened taxa
In connection with the ex-situ conservation of Endemic, Threatened and Economically important plants of the region and recording phenological data on flowering and fruiting of species growing in the Garden, planted 54 live plant species collected by Sri L.R. Meitei from Yangoupokpi Lokchao WLS, Manipur in the garden which belongs to species of Acampe, Aerides, Ardisia, Artabotrys, Begonia, Boesenbergia, Bulbophyllum, Calanthe, Calamus, Clerodendrum, Coelogyne, Costus, Curcuma, Cycas, Cymbidium, Dendrobium, Dioscorea, Dipterocarpus, Eria, Geodorum, Gnetum, Hedychium, Leea, Liparis, Micropera, Musa, Pholidota, Oberonia, Phalaenopsis, Pholidota, Platycerium, Pteroceres, Sterculia, Tainia, Thunia, Vanda and Zingiber.

For the ongoing project on various species conservation, for Cymbidium tigrinum MS Medium prepared and regular subculturing was done; for Armodorum senapatianum subculture is being done at regular intervals; for Rhododendron coxianum subculture was done and data recorded for micropropagation of Rare, Endemic & Threatened plants of N.E. India. In connection with the Phytochemical Screening of Medicinal Plants and Molecular Characterization of selected species of NE India, DNA fingerprinting is continued with the extracted DNA of Paphiopedilum venustum (Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh) using RAPD primers. Besides, DNA extraction is completed for leaf samples of some selected species of Rhododendron.

Further, regular subculturing and maintenance of in vitro raised seedlings of Pyrenaria khasiana and callus induction studies are being continued with in vitro raised leaf explants of Pyrenaria khasiana. Regular maintenance of initiated cultures of Paris polyphylla in MS medium was also done.

Public service rendered
Identified 11 samples of specimens received from various institutions.

Visitors/students
Five Professors, Eleven Research Scholars and Twenty three Students visited the Centre from various Institutions, Colleges and Universities.
Publications

NORTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE, DEHRADUN


A view of Nandhour Wildlife Sanctuary  
*Crotalaria spectabilis*  
*Phologacanthus thyrisiformis*

*Hiptage benghalensis* - a rare species from Simbalbara National Park, H.P.  
*Abrus precatorius* at Simbalbara NP
Public services rendered

Visitors/students
Dr. Adil Yousuf and 40 students, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh visited herbarium, museum and experimental garden and Ms. Chandni Gupta, JRF, CNH, Howrah consulted the herbarium for revisionary study of *Rubus*.

Publications


**SIKKIM HIMALAYAN REGIONAL CENTRE, GANGTOK**

Dr. M. Gangopadhyay, Scientist ‘D’ & HoO has prepared 10 drawings of Rubiaceae members for the project, ‘Family Rubiaceae for Flora of India (Amplification of the description of ca 65 poorly known species supplemented with illustration and possible photographs)’. Dr. Gangopadhyay also conducted tour to Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change, New Delhi and Headquarter, BSI, Kolkata from 18th March to 26th March, 2015 in connection with the inspection with the visit of Parliamentary Committee (3rd sub-committee) on Official Language.

Dr. D.K. Agrawala, Scientist ‘C’ studied 10 orchid specimens and finalized their identity, assigned geo-coordinates and entered the data in excel sheet for the project, ‘Red listing of Orchids of Eastern Himalaya as per IUCN criteria’. Dr. Agrawala identified 7 species and illustrated 4 Orchid species.
Coelogyne pempahisheyana - an endemic orchid of Eastern Himalaya

Zeuxine flava - an uncommon terrestrial orchid growing in Gangtok

Parliamentary Committee for official language
Dr. M.M. Kutti, Joint Secretary, MoEF & CC, New Delhi; Sri S.P Choubey, Ex-Director, Official Language, MoEF & CC and Dr. P. Singh, Director, BSI, Kolkata visited this center in connection with the inspection of Parliamentary Committee for official language during 9th to 12th April 2015.

Visitors/students
46 M.Sc. students from Sikkim University visited, to whom Dr. Agrawala demonstrated herbarium techniques, ex-situ conservation practices and delivered a lecture on “Collection, preservation and identification of Orchids”.

Miscellaneous
The scientific audit team from Kolkata visited this centre for audit from 15th to 28th April 2015.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE, COIMBATORE

For the ongoing project, Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuaries, Tamil Nadu; Flora of Srivilliputhur Grizzled Giant Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu; Flora of Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kozhikode, Kerala identification and writing of descriptions are being carried out by the scientists and scientific staff.
Dr. M. Palanisamy, Scientist ‘D’ and Sri S.K. Yadav, Bot. Asst. carried out microscopic studies of seaweeds, taken 40 microscopic images and completed description for 10 species of seaweeds in connection with the ‘Seaweed Flora of Karnataka’.

Visitors/students

Total 27 students, research scholars, lectures, scientists visited the herbarium and library of SRC, Coimbatore, whereas 702 persons in 121 parties visited NO & EG, Yercaud.

Dr. S. Kaliamoorthy, Scientist ‘D’ and his team multiplied a total of 107 plants (including 55 samples of ornamental orchids, 2 samples of endemic orchid, Flickingeria nodosa and 50 samples of other plants), developed 64 seedlings, 30 cuttings, and recorded the phenology of 25 species including 14 orchids and 11 species of angiosperms under the project, ‘Ex-situ conservation of endangered and threatened plants’ at National Orchidarium and Experimental Garden (NO & EG), Yercaud.

The team also collected seeds of Geodorum densiflorum and carried out tissue culture study for its asymbiotic seed germination and initiated an experimental setup for the study the effect of NPK on Cymbidium bicolor.

Scanning Electron Microscopy

Dr. G.V.S. Murthy, Scientist ‘F’ & HoO studied the pollinia of the species of Dendrobium, Coelogyne and Eria under SEM. Dr. K.A.A. Kabeer, Scientist ‘D’ studied 6 species of Sporobolus specimens under SEM. Sri G. Gnanasekaran, Bot. Asst. examined the seeds of Andrographis rotundifolia by using SEM. Dr. J.V. Sudhakar, Bot. Asst. micrographed 20 SEM images of achenes of 8 taxa of the genus Ficus.

Public service rendered

A total of 37 plant samples were identified for research scholars and students of various institutions.

Dr. M. Palanisamy, evaluated the Ph. D. thesis, “Potential of seaweed Liquid Fertilizer on growth and yield of Vigna mungo L. and Antibacterial properties of Silver nanoparticles from seaweeds” received from Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu.

Dr. J.V. Sudhakar was deputed as a resource person to the team of Bharathidasan University, Trichy to accompany in a field tour to Palani hills from 25th to 28th March 2015.
Ms. Prajakta S. Pathare, SRF undertook one field tour to Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary, Maharashtra from 20.04.2015 to 01.05.2015. Different forest beats in the core zone such as Shirshingi and Dicholi were surveyed by covering an area of about 65 sq.km. A total of 25 field numbers were vouched during this field tour.

During this month, about 140 angiosperm specimens were identified from Sharavathy Valley Wildlife Sanctuary and Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Wildlife Sanctuary in Karnataka. About 20 pteridophyte specimens were identified from different parts of Maharashtra and Karnataka. Isolation of fungi from 21 host plants was carried out in culture medium (Potato Dextrose Agar). Identification of 31 fungal species and making descriptions for 14 fungal species were completed.

Public service rendered
Identified and authentication certificates were issued for 14 students from B. Pharm., M. Pharm., Ph.D. and P.G. students from different institutions.

Visitors/students
For consultation of herbarium and library, scientists and research students from Department of Life Sciences, Natural History Museum London, UK; Savithribhai Phule University, Pune; Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, Maharashtra visited the centre during this month.

Publication
NEW RECRUITMENT

- Dr. Avishek Bhattacharjee joined CNH, Howrah as Scientist ‘B’ on 17.04.2015.
- Dr. Monalisa Dey joined Hqrs., Kolkata as Scientist ‘B’ on 17.04.2015.
- Dr. Krishna Chowlu joined APRC, Itanagar as Scientist ‘B’ on 20.04.2015.
- Dr. Sanjay Mishra joined ANRC, Port Blair as Scientist ‘B’ on 21.04.2015.
- Dr. Achuta Nand Shukla joined CRC, Allahabad as Scientist ‘B’ on 27.04.2015.
- Dr. Chandan Singh Purohit joined AZRC, Jodhpur as Scientist ‘B’ on 27.04.2015.

TRANSFER

Dr. Nitisha Srivastava, Bot. Asst. transferred to CRC, Allahabad from Hqrs., Kolkata and reported to duty at CRC on 01.04.2015.

Thanks to all the scientists and staff of various regional centres and units of Botanical Survey of India for contributing to this newsletter.