In connection with ongoing projects such as ‘Studies on Wild Mushrooms of Sikkim’, ‘Studies on the Macrofungi of A.J.C. Bose Indian Botanic Garden’, ‘Wood rotting fungi of Rajmahal hills’, ‘Hot Spring algae of Rajgir and Munger, Bihar’, ‘Revision of the family Metzgeriaceae in India’ and ‘Liverworts and Hornworts Flora of Darjeeling District, West Bengal’ the scientists and scientific staff of the Cryptogamic section made identification, description, illustrations and microphotographs. Apart from these, ArcGIS maps were also made in some fungal species.

Sri Arvind Parihar, Bot. Asst. accessioned and incorporated 12 specimens, which include two type materials – **Craterellus albostrigosus** C.K. Pradeep & K.B. Vrinda CAL1624 (Holotype) and **Craterellus inusitatus** C.K. Pradeep & K.B. Vrinda CAL1625 (Holotype).

Dr. Monalisa Dey, Scientist ‘B’ acted as a panel member in the selection committee for selection of candidates for the Green Skill Development Programme, Advanced course (Parataxonomist) held on 02.11.2017 at Central National Herbarium, BSI, Howrah.

**Public service rendered**

Dr. A.B.D. Selvam, Scientist ‘D’ pharmacognostically studied and authenticated three vegetable crude drug samples as detailed below, which were received from M/s Emami Ltd. Gujarat, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

- **Asparagus racemosus** Willd. (Asparagaceae) – Root
- **Cinnamomum tamala** (Buch.-Ham.) T.Nees & Eberm. (Lauraceae) – Leaves
- **Cinnamomum verum** J.Presl (Lauraceae) – Stem bark
- **Coriandrum sativum** L. (Apiaceae) – Dried fruits
- **Cuminum cyminum** L. (Apiaceae) – Dried Seeds
- **Curcuma zedoaria** (Christm.) Roscoe (Zingiberaceae) – Rhizome slices
- **Piper nigrum** L. (Piperaceae) – Dried fruits
- **Rubia cordifolia** L. (Rubiaceae) – Stem
- **Syzygium aromaticum** (L.) Merr. & L.M. Perry (Myrtaceae) – Flower buds
- **Vitis vinifera** L. (Vitaceae) – Dried fruits
- **Zingiber officinale** Roscoe (Zingiberaceae) – Dried rhizome

**Lecture attended**

Scientific officials attended a lecture given by Dr. Bharat Babu Shrestha, Associate Professor, Central Department of Botany, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu on “Invasive alien plants in Nepal: Diversity, distribution and management” at Central National Herbarium, BSI, Howrah on 09.11.2017.

**Visitors/students**


55 students of B.Sc. Botany (Hons.) 1st & 2nd year from Hooghly Mohsin College, Chinsurah on 29.11.2017.

**Publications**


Dr. V.P. Prasad, Scientist ‘D’ undertaken a herbarium consultation tour to BSD and DD, Dehradun, LWG, Lucknow and BSA, Allahabad from 9th to 30th November 2017. Dr. Prasad identified 40 specimens of family Cyperaceae for the scientists of BSA and corrected the identity of about 250 Cyperaceae specimens at BSA, BSD, DD and LWG during the herbarium consultation.

Dr. A. Bhattacharjee, Scientist ‘B’ undertaken a tour from 18th to 28th November 2017 to different parts of South and West Sikkim in connection with collection.

Sri P.P. Ghoshal, Botanist, conducted one survey tour pertaining to Eco-Sensitive Zone covering 1042 sq. km of Betla National Park, Palamau Wildlife Sanctuary and Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary from 20th to 29th November and collected specimens of 39 field numbers.

Sri Anant Kumar, Bot. Asst. undertaken a tour from 16th to 24th November 2017 to Eco Sensitive Zone of Kusheshwar Asthan Bird Sanctuary, Darbhanga, Bihar.

Sri Gopal Krishna, Bot. Asst., attended training in Digitisation and Curation of Indian Herbarium Specimens along with Drs. Basant Kumar Singh, AJCBIBG, BSI and Dilip Kumar Roy, ERC, BSI organized by Natural History Museum (NHM), London.

Public Service rendered
Dr. Vinay Ranjan, Scientist ‘D’ and Sri Anant Kumar identified 08 specimens collected from Neora Valley National Park, Darjeeling district, West Bengal.
Dr. O.N. Maurya, Scientist ‘C’ identified 10 species collected from Udaipur Wildlife Sanctuary, West Champaran, Bihar.
Sri Anant Kumar identified 140 species collected in Eco-sensitive Zone of Kusheshwar Asthan Bird Sanctuary, Darbhanga, Bihar.

Public Service rendered
Dr. Subir Bandyopadhyay, Scientist ‘B’ identified some images of Pilostigma malabaricum (Roxb.) Benth. received from Sandip Kisan Gavade, Research Fellow, Department of Botany, Shivaji University, Kolhapur.
CNH officials identified 29 plant specimens received from P.G. Department of Botany, Darrang College (Gauhati University), Tezpur, Assam; Centre for Rural Development and Technology, Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi; Bengal School of Technology, Sugandha, Hooghly, West Bengal; The Pharmaceutical College, Samaleswari Vihar Tingipali, Barpali, Dist. Bargarh, Odisha; Bharat Technology, Uluberia, Howrah; Pharmacology, NSHM Knowledge Campus, Kolkata-Group of Institution, Kolkata; Department of Pharmacology, IPGT & RA, Jamnagar, Gujarat and Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Technology, Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Ranchi.
Dr. Bandyopadhyay provided PDF of 8 pages to Dr. Manoj Lekhak, Shivaji University, Kolhapur; of 26 pages on the genus Nymphoides Ségui (Menyanthaceae) to Sri Anup Kumar Sarkar, Rishi Bankim College, Naihati, West Bengal; of 3 pages on Ledebouria viridis S.R. Dutta & P. Harvey ex M.R. Almeida to Dr. V.S. Raju, Retd. Professor, Department of Botany, Kakatiya University, Warangal, Telangana; of 2 pages on the nomenclature of Adiantum cuneatum Langsd. et Fisch. to Dr. Jaideep Mazumdar, Krishna Chandra College, Hetampur, Birbhum, West Bengal; of 38 pages on family Polygonaceae in India, of 10 pages on Euphlebium papilionaceum Cooteset M.A. Clem. to Dr. M.K. Vasudeva Rao and of 1 page on protologue of Viscum mysorense Gamble to Dr. M. Sanjappa, former Director, BSI.
Glimpses of visit of Sri Yashvir Singh, Economic Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi to CNH
Dr. S. Bandhyopadhyay also reviewed manuscripts of two papers received from Editors of the journal *Rheedea* and *Nelumbo*.

Dr. A. Bhattacharjee sent 4 images of types of *Glyptopetalum sclerocarpum* (Kurz) Lawson to Dr. Ivan Savinov, Russia and to Dr. Maxim Nuraliev, Russia.

Dr. K. Karthigeyan, Scientist ‘D’ reviewed an article received from *Rheedea*.

Dr. V.P. Prasad reviewed one paper for *Rheedea* on a new species of *Eleocharis*.

**Meetings/seminar attended/organised**

Dr. V.P. Prasad attended the XXVII Annual Conference and the International Seminar of Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy (IAAT) held at Delhi University, New Delhi from 10th to 12th November, 2017. Also attended the EC meeting and the General body meeting of IAAT and as desired by the secretary readout the annual report for 2016-17. Dr. V. Sampath Kumar also attended the inaugural programme of the seminar on 10.11.2017.

Dr. V. Sampath Kumar along with Director, BSI attended a meeting regarding Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP) organized by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. Of India at New Delhi on 09.11.2017. Central National Herbarium organized the Heads of the office meeting on 23rd November and RAMC on 25th November 2017.

Dr. Bandhyopadhyay delivered a lecture on “Typification of Plant Names” and Dr. Bhattacharjee on “Plant Nomenclature” in the Workshop on Lichen Identification and Nomenclature held in Central Regional Centre, Botanical Survey of India, Allahabad on 11.11.2017.

**Visitors/students**

15 students accompanied by four teachers from Ram Nagar College, Midnapur on 03.11.2017.


17 foreign delegates from M/s Sutra on 11.11.2017.

Mr. Jacek H. Graff from Poland on 21.11.2017.

75 students accompanied by four teachers from Midnapur College, on 22.11.2017.

35 students accompanied by five teachers from South Calcutta girls’ College, Kolkata on 24.11.2017.

40 students accompanied by two teachers from Andhra University, Visakhapatnam on 26.11.2017.

**Publication**


— Dr. P.V. Prasanna
Scientist ‘F’ & HoO
The botanical paintings by Roxburgh are being interpreted with updated nomenclature. Under this project, 152 Poaceae members in Icones Roxburghianae were listed and four species – *Agrostis coromandeliana*, *A. diandra*, *A. matrella*, *A. maxima* and 12 members from Ebenaceae were listed and three species - *Diospyros lanceifolia*, *D. stricta*, *D. chloroxylon* were interpreted.

**Database of Herbarium Specimens**

As a part of preparing a database of herbarium specimens at BSIS, 343 numbers of Dicot herbarium specimens were listed and documented.

**Updating of nomenclature of digitized Herbarium Specimens at BSIS**

542 numbers of Digitized Herbarium specimens were updated with valid botanical names and basionyms/synonyms.

**Public service rendered**

Under the Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 12 samples received from West Bengal Police were identified.

**Visitors/students**

As per BSI’s EEAP programme, 38 students and 2 guide teachers from Dum Dum Motijheel Girls High School visited ISIM gallery on 11.11.2017 and attended a talk on ‘Rhododendrons of India’ delivered by Dr. M. Bhaumik, Scientist ‘D’ & HoO, Industrial Section Indian museum, Kolkata.

17 foreign delegates from M/S Sutra namely, Dominique Cardon (UK), Jenny Balfour Paul (UK), Janie Lightfoot (UK), Rubi Ghuznavi (Kuwait), Penay Jewall (Australia), Georg Stark (Germany), Kathy Hattoni (USA), Narelle Dore (UK), Anne Sutherland (Canada), Sunaim Sunuja, Jerri-Lynx Scofield, Sabir Alam (India) and Nidhi Agarwall (India) were visited Natural dyes and textile fabrics collection at ISIM on 11.11.2017.
Prof. Dr. A.K. Kaul, RAMC Chairman along with Dr. P. Singh, Director, BSI and other BSI officials visited ISIM gallery on 26.11.2017.

Mrs. Renuka Reddy, Textile Artist from Bangalore also visited Botanical gallery.

**Awareness programme, Workshop, Seminar organized/attended**

Exhibition on ‘Botanical Heritage of India’ organized by ISIM, BSI, Kolkata in collaboration with RBG, Kew, CWEH, University of Sussex, UK, MoEFCC, Govt. of India and India International Centre, New Delhi at India International Centre, New Delhi successfully concluded on 07.11.2017. The same exhibition was shifted to Botany Department, University of Delhi and exhibited there from 10th to 12th November 2017 during IAAT conference held at the University. The exhibition was attended by scientists, professors, students of botany from different universities and institutions of the country.

Another exhibition and a new model on “Natural dye Indigo processing and extraction unit” in collaboration with M/S Sutra was displayed at ICCR, Kolkata during 9th to 18th November 2017.

Dr. M. Bhaumik and Dr. A.K. Sahoo attend a talk on ‘Preventive measures of museum artifacts” by Dr. Rajesh Purohit, Director, Indian Museum, Kolkata at Committee Room, Indian Museum on 21.11.2017.

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**ANDAMAN & NICOBAR REGIONAL CENTRE, PORT BLAIR**

Dr. Lal Ji Singh, Scientist ‘D’ & HoO, undertaken field tour to Middle Andaman from 26th October to 2nd November 2017 and collected numbers of seeds, seedlings of tree species and other plants and introduced them to Dhanikhari Experimental Garden Cum Arboretum (DEGCA).

Dr. Vivek C.P., Bot. Asst. conducted field survey to Quarry Hill Wetland, Hut Bay from 6th to 9th November 2017 and identified and listed a total of 137 plant species belong to 55 families growing at the wetland and taken 74 photographs.

Dr. Vivek accompanied a tour party arranged by Andaman and Nicobar Tribal Research Institute (ANTRI), Port Blair to the Strait Island, Middle Andaman from 11th and 12th November 2017, for identification of ethno-medicine being practiced among the aboriginal tribe, the Great Andamanese of the A & N Islands.

Dr. T.A.M. Jagadeesh Ram, Scientist ‘D’ conducted herbarium consultation tour to ERC, BSI, Shillong from 12th to 26th November 2017. A total of 204 specimens were consulted during the tour.

**Digitization of herbarium specimens**

Herbarium sheets Scanned: 981 nos. of family Euphorbiaceae, Moraceae, Myrtaceae and Orchidaceae.

Herbarium details computerized in Excel format: 945 herbarium specimens of families Euphorbiaceae, Moraceae, Myrtaceae, Orchidaceae and Ulmaceae were fed in the computer in a prescribed format.

**Meeting(s) /symposia/seminars conducted/attended**

Dr. Lal Ji Singh, Scientist ‘D’ & HoO and Dr. Sanjay Mishra, Scientist ‘B’ attended an inaugural function of Second South Asia Thematic School (Indo-French Workshop) in Aquatic Microbial Ecology( ASIAME-2) at NIOT, Port Blair on 07.11.2017.
Dr. Lal Ji Singh addressing gathering on the occasion of inaugural function of Advance Course: Para-taxonomists of the Green Skill Development Programme as a Guest of Honour at ANRC, ZSI, Port Blair

Dr. Lal Ji Singh delivering an invited lecture during Indo-French Workshop at NIOT, Port Blair

Dr. Mishra and Sri Gautam Anuj Ekka, Presv. Asst. attended training programme of GST at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Auditorium on 10.11.2017 organized by Goods and Service Tax Department, Andaman and Nicobar Administration.

Dr. Jagadeesh Ram attended the ‘Workshop on Lichen Identification and Nomenclature’ at CRC, BSI, Allahabad on 10 & 11th November 2017 as Resource Person.

Dr. Singh attended an inaugural function of Advance Course: Para-taxonomists of the Green Skill Development Programme as a Guest of Honour at ZSI, ANRC, Port Blair on 11.11.2017.

Public service rendered

Dr. Mishra and Sri Gautam Anuj Ekka, Presv. Asst. attended training programme of GST at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Auditorium on 10.11.2017 organized by Goods and Service Tax Department, Andaman and Nicobar Administration.

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Dr. Jagadeesh Ram attended the ‘Workshop on Lichen Identification and Nomenclature’ at CRC, BSI, Allahabad on 10 & 11th November 2017 as Resource Person.

Dr. Singh attended an inaugural function of Advance Course: Para-taxonomists of the Green Skill Development Programme as a Guest of Honour at ZSI, ANRC, Port Blair on 11.11.2017.

Public service rendered

Dr. Lal Ji Singh delivered an invited lecture on Plant diversity of Andaman and Nicobar Islands for Indo-French Workshop at NIOT, Port Blair on 15.11.2017.

Dr. Singh performed duty as an examiner to evaluate Ph.D. Thesis for Cochin University of Science and Technology, Cochin, Kerala.

Dr. Sanjay Mishra acted as Judge in The Andaman and Nicobar District Level Children’s Science congress for assessing the projects on 24.11.2017 at conference hall of Siksha Sadan, Port Blair organized by Directorate of Education in collaboration with Andaman Nature Club, Port Blair.

Dr. Mishra performed duties as Judge in State Level Science Seminar on 27.11.2017 at conference hall of Siksha Sadan, Port Blair organized by Directorate of Education in collaboration with Birla institute of Technological museum (BITM), Kolkata.
Dr. C.P. Vivek, Bot. Asst. and Sri Gautam Anuj Ekka, Presv. Asst. provided first hand training on herbarium methodology to Mr. Mathis, Andaman and Nicobar Tribal Research Institute (ANTRI), Port Blair on 22.11.2017.

Visitors


Two teaching staff and 5 students of St. Mary’s School, Bhatubasti, Port Blair, visited herbarium, library and garden on 06.11.2017.

Sri Joju P. Alappatt, Director, FTI, Wimberligunj visited herbarium and library and Sri Rajbir Singh, Deputy Director General, General Ordinance Inspection Board, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi, visited office and garden on 08.11.2017.

Sri Hena Hayat, Minnie Bay and Ms. Dayani Chakravarthy, JRF, National Centre for Biological Science, Bangalore, visited herbarium and library for consultation on 28.11.2017.

— Dr. Lal Ji Singh
Scientist ‘D’ & HoO
Dr. C.S. Purohit, Scientist ‘B’ conducted one field tour to Flora of Todgarh-Raoli WLS, Rajasthan from 9th to 28th November 2017 and collected 248 field numbers.

Specimen identification
136 Field numbers has been identified during the period under report.

Meeting attended
Dr. S.L. Meena, Scientist ‘D’ attended a workshop on Regional research council organised by AFRI, Jodhpur on 23.11.2017.
Sri Vinod Maina, Scientist ‘D’ & HoO attended RCM meeting on 22.11.2017 at AJCBI BG, BSI, Howrah and Head of Office meeting on 23.11.2017 at CNH, BSI, Howrah.

Public service rendered
Identified one plant specimen brought by research student.

Visitors
Dr. Anil Kumar Dular, Dr. P.D. Charan and Dr. Leela Kaur, Asst. Professors and 15 students of M.Sc., Environmental Science, Dept. of Environmental Science, Maharaja Ganga Singh University, Bikaner visited Herbarium, Botanical Garden and Museum on 14.11.2017.

— Sri Vinod Maina
Scientist ‘D’ & HoO
Identification service rendered

A total of 164 specimens belonging to 58 species were identified for the project, ‘Floristic Diversity of Bhoj Wetland, Madhya Pradesh.

A total of 84 specimens were identified in connection with the project, ‘Identification of old unidentified specimens of BSA’.

Taxonomic description of 15 species were completed under the project ‘Trees of Allahabad city and its Environ’.

Dr. G.P. Sinha, Scientist ‘E’ & HoO, updated nomenclature, consequential changes in key to genera and species and editing of families Apocynaceae, Asclepiadaceae, Loganiaceae, Buddlejaceae, Gentianaceae, Menyanthaceae, Polemoniaceae, Hydrophyllaceae and Boraginaceae for the project ‘Editing of Flora of Uttar Pradesh, Vol. II’.


Meeting/workshop attended/organised

Dr. G.P. Sinha attended 83rd Regional Council Meeting and Head of Office Meeting at Howrah/Kolkata on 22.11.2017 and 23.11.2017 respectively.

51st Office Council Meeting was also organised at CRC, BSI, Allahabad on 15.11.2017 in the office attended by Dr. Sheo Kumar, Dr. Arti Garg and Dr. A.N. Shukla, Sri Jagdish Tiwari and Sri Charan Singh from office side.

A workshop, ‘Lichen identification and Nomenclature’ was organized on 10-11th November, 2017 at CRC, BSI, Allahabad, wherein 14 resource persons delivered lectures as well as practical session was organized.
on herbarium methodology and identification of lichens in field and laboratory. Altogether 65 delegates attended the workshop from various states of India viz., Assam, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The Inaugural function held on 10th November, attended by over 120 academician and Heads of Institutes was chaired by Prof. D.K. Chauhan, Head, Botany department, University of Allahabad.

Visitors
Prof. S.Y Kondratyuk, National Acadamey of Sciences, Ukraine, an expert on lichen family Teloschistaceae visited the lichenology Laboratory and consulted/authenticated lichen specimens of BSA on 20.11.2017. About 120 visitors/guests including lichenologists and other academicians of university/ colleges/institutes were attended during the Lichen workshop held between 10-11th November 2017.
Dr. V.P. Prasad, Scientist D, CNH, Howrah visited and consulted BSA herbarium from 24th to 29th November and identified/ authenticated several specimens of family Cyperaceae.

Public service rendered
Dr. A.N. Shukla, Scientist ‘B’ reviewed a manuscript for the Journal of Economic and Taxonomic Botany.

Ex situ conservation in the associated garden of CRC

Publication

— Dr. G.P. Sinha
Scientist ‘E’ & HoO

Participants of the Lichen identification and Nomenclature workshop at CRC, BSI, Allahabad
DECCAN REGIONAL CENTRE, HYDERABAD

Dr. G. Swarnalatha, Bot. Asst. identified and studied eight macro lichen specimens for the project, “Inventory of Macrolichen diversity of Odisha State”.

Digitisation of Herbarium specimens
500 herbarium sheets were scanned belonging to various families at BSID.

Public service rendered
Dr. J. Swamy, delivered lecture on Introduction of Plant taxonomy at Kairatabad, Government Degree College, Hyderabad, on 23.11.2017.
Identified one plant species for Vaageswari College of Pharmacy, Karimnagar, Telangana.

Meeting attended /lecture delivered
Dr. K. Chandra Mohan, SPF, attend Workshop on Integrated Taxonomy at University of Delhi from 12th to 23rd November 2017.
Dr. L. Rasingam, Scientist ‘D’ & HoO attended Regional Council meeting and Heads of office meeting at Howrah/Kolkata on 22nd and 23rd November 2017.

EASTERN REGIONAL CENTRE, SHILLONG

Dr. Deepu Vijayan, Scientist ‘C’ and Dr. M. Murugesan, Scientist ‘B’ visited to Nameri National Park (Sonitpur District), Dullung Reserve forest, Lakhimpur, Assam, Sonai Rupai Wild Life Sanctuary, Sibsagar, Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, Garampani Wildlife Sanctuary and Bordering areas of Arunachal Pradesh, Boginadi from 8th to 15th November, 2017 for Micropropagation, Phytochemical Screening of Medicinal Plants and Molecular Characterization of Selected Species of NE India and live plant collection for ex-situ conservation.

During this month 28 species identified for Flora of west & south-West Khasi hills district, Meghalaya with reference to the sacred groves by Dr. Chaya Deori, Scientist ‘D’ and Dr. S.R. Talukdar, Bot. Asst., and Flora of Eastern Nagaland by Dr. N. Odyuo, Scientist ‘D’ and Dr. R. Daimary, Bot. Asst.

Public service rendered

Identified three samples of specimens received from various institutions.

Training Programme organized/Meeting attended/lecture delivered

A lecture on ‘Impatiens of North east India was delivered by Dr. Rajib Gogoi, Scientist ‘D’, CNH, BSI, Howrah on 14.11.2017 and was attended by all the scientists, scientific staff and Research scholars of ERC, Shillong. Dr. S.K. Singh attended Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC) meeting on 29.11.2017 at Laitkor, Shillong.

A five day (30th October to 3rd November 2017) training program on basics of plant identification and nomenclature was organised at Botanical survey of India, Eastern regional Centre, Shillong with the aim to spread knowledge and awareness in the field of plant taxonomy. A total of 29 participants from various
Glimpses of Five day Training program on basics of plant identification and nomenclature was organised at Eastern Regional Centre, Botanical survey of India, Shillong

institutes like North Eastern Hill University, Shillong; BRDC, Shillong; Mizoram University, Guwahati University, NERIST, Itanagar; GBPNHESD, Itanagar; NERIE NCRT, Barapani, FEED, Manipur; BNMU; Bihar along with BSI Research students participated in this programme.

Visitors/students
10 scientists, six Professor, 10 research scholars, 79 students and 15 other visitors from various Institutions, Colleges and Universities visited the Centre.

Publications


-- Dr. Chaya Deori
Scientist ‘D’ In-Charge

**Digitization of Herbarium specimens**
Scanned and digitized 81 specimens of the family Rubiaceae and of Pteridophytes.

**Public Services rendered**
Identified 19 species for visitors from different institutes/Universities.

**Meetings/Seminar/Workshop/Conference attended**
Dr. Kumar Ambrish, Scientist ‘D’ & HoO attended 83rd RCM & Heads of Offices Meeting from 21st to 23rd November 2017 and presented Half yearly progress report of the centre.

**Visitors/students**
A batch of 26 students from Dolphin institute, Dehradun visited the centre.

**Publication**

_**Dr. Kumar Ambrish**_
Scientist ‘D’ & HoO

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*Photo: H. Singh*

_**NRC, BSI officials with 2nd prize Certificate and Shield: Received from Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC) for the year 2016-17**_
Dr. J.H. Franklin Benjamin, Scientist ‘C’ and Mr. Rakesh, G. Vadhyar, Bot. Asst. conducted a botanical exploration tour to Kanniyakumari WLS, Tamil Nadu from 1st to 12th November 2017 and vouched 187 field numbers and identified 10 field numbers from previous collection. Dr. C. Murugan, Scientist ‘D’ & HoO and Dr. S. Arumugam, Bot. Asst. conducted a botanical exploration tour to Meghamalai WLS, Tamil Nadu from 10th to 16th November 2017 and vouched 163 field numbers. They also identified specimens of 65 field numbers from previous collection. Dr. K.A.A. Kabeer, Scientist ‘D’ and Mr. A. Ravi Kiran, Bot. Asst. conducted a botanical exploration tour to Kodaikanal WLS, Tamil Nadu from 20th November to 2nd December 2017 and vouched 109 field numbers and identified 39 field nos. from previous collection. In connection with documentation of Phytodiversity, Dr. J.V. Sudhakar, Bot. Asst. and Dr. S. Arumugam undertook a filed tour to Erode, Dharmapuri, Vellore, Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur and Chennai from 23rd to
30th November 2017 and vouched 87 field numbers of Cyperaceae of Tamil Nadu. Besides, they also identified 10 field numbers of Cyperaceae. Dr. M. Palanisamy, Scientist ‘D’ and Dr. S.K. Yadav, Bot. Asst. identified 62 field numbers of seaweeds from Goa coast.

**Ex-situ conservation**

Dr. S. Kaliamoorthy, Scientist ‘D’, Dr. M.Y. Kamble, Scientist ‘D’ and his team introduced 13 samples of 2 species, viz., *Acanthephippium bicolour* Lindl. and *Caralluma* sp., multiplied 78 samples, belonging to 16 taxa, developed 15 cuttings and recorded the phenological data of 26 plants, including 18 orchids and 8 other angiosperms at the National Orchidarium and Experimental Garden (NO & EG), Yercaud. They also conducted a local tour to Sanyasimalai Reserve forest, Yercaud on 16.11.2017 and collected seedlings of endemic and endangered species, *Crotalaria longipes* Wight & Arn. and introduced in Experimental Garden.

**Digitisation of Herbarium specimens**

Three isosyntypes (*Aneilema hookeri* C.B. Clarke; *A. ensifolium* Wight; *A. latifolium* Wight- Commelinaceae) were incorporated to type section of MH.

**Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)**

Dr. Sudhakar, Bot. Asst. and Mrs. R. Mehala Devi studied the nutlets of Cyperaceae using SEM. Dr. S. Kaliamoorthy and Dr. T.S. Saravanan fixed seven Orchid species into fixative agents for SEM study.
Meetings/programmes attended/conducted

Vigilance Awareness week 2017 was observed from 30th October to 4th November 2017 at SRC, BSI, Coimbatore.

An Office Council Meeting (OCM) was organized on 06.11.2017 under the chairmanship of Dr. C. Murugan. All the scientific officials attended the same and discussed various issues of research activities of the centre.

A Walk in Interview was conducted on 06.11.2017 at SRC, BSI, Coimbatore for the selection of candidates for GSDP Parataxonomy training programme.

Dr. M.Y. Kamble attended XXVII Annual Conference of Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy & International Symposium on “Plant Systematics: Priorities and Challenges”, held on 10th to 12th November 2017 organized by Department of Botany, University of Delhi, Delhi and presented a paper on “Diversity of Grasses in Shevaroy Hills of Eastern Ghats, India”.

Sri Rakesh G. Vadhyar attended and delivered a talk on Herbarium Techniques in the National Seminar on Basics in Angiosperm Taxonomy organized by PG & Research Department of Botany, MES Asambi College, Thrissur on 22nd and 23rd November 2017.

Public service rendered

Identified 64 plant specimens for the students / research scholars of various institutions.

Dr. M. Palanisamy was invited as external examiner to conduct Ph.D. viva-voce examination of Mr. P.Raja, Research scholar, Dept. of Botany, St. Joseph’s college under Bharathidasan University, Trichy on 16.11.2017.

Two days classes were organised for 38 Forester including 7 ladies from Tamil Nadu Forest Academy on 25 and 27th November 2017. Several lectures on the history of BSI and its role in Biodiversity were delivered by the scientific officials of the centre.

Dr. J.V. Sudhakar, Dr. S. Arumugam, Mr. Rakesh G. Vadhyar and Mrs. R. Mehala Devi delivered lectures about BSI, Museum and MH Collections and about nomenclatural types to Botany students from Kerala and Tamil Nadu: TN Forest Training College, Vaiga Dam (2 batches 25 & 27th Nov. 2017) and KE College, Kottayam (14.11.2017).

Visitors/students

During this month, 90 scientific personnel/officials/students/scholars visited the museum, herbarium and library of this regional centre whereas 976 persons in 86 parties, including Mr. Ramanujan, CCF and Mr. Kribhashankar, DFO, Salem visited the NO & EG, Yercaud.

Publications


– Dr. C. Murugan
Scientist ‘D’ & HoO
Dr. Alok Chorghe, Post Doctoral Fellow conducted field tour from 13th to 25th November 2017 to Gooty and Guntur in Andhra Pradesh, Mahendragiri Hills and Koraput of Odisha state for the project, “Taxonomy & Caryopsis macro-morphology of Genus Themeda and allied spathacea genera in India”.

**Identification of herbarium specimens**

Dr. J. Jayanthi, Scientist ‘D’ has identified 50 field numbers for the project, ‘Floristic Diversity of Biligirirangaswamy (BRT) WLS, Karnataka’.

Dr. Priyanka Ingle, Scientist ‘B’ identified 14 specimens for the project, ‘Floristic Diversity of Wan Wildlife Sanctuary’.

Dr. C.R. Jadhav, Botanist identified 35 specimens for the project, ‘Floristic survey of Someshwara Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnataka’.


Dr. A. Benniamin, Scientist ‘D’ identified 16 Pteridophyte species collected from Karnataka in connection with the project, ‘Ferns of Karnataka’.

Sri D. Jesubalan, Bot. Asst. identified 2 Pteridophyte species for the project, ‘Pteridophytic flora of Pushpagiri Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnataka with 10% periphery’.

Sri D. Tripati, Senior Project Fellow identified five Pteridophyte species for the project, ‘Pteridophyte flora of Kudremukh National Park, Karnataka’.

Dr. Rashmi Dubey, Scientist ‘D’ identified seven litter samples and cultured 2 soil samples and 2 water samples collected for the project, ‘Taxonomic Studies of Microfungi of Sanjay Gandhi National Park along with its 10% peripheral area’.

Smt. Shreya Sengupta, Senior Project Fellow examined 46 slides of micro fungi for the project, ‘Microfungi of Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple wildlife Sanctuary, Karnataka’ and identified 13 species.

Dr. Alok Chorghe, Post Doctoral Fellow identified 2 species of the genus *Themeda* and conducted SEM studies of the caryopsis.

**Public services rendered**

During this month 19 plant species identified and issued authentication certificates to students from B. Pharm, M. Pharm. colleges, Ph.D. and P.G. students from different institutions.

**Meetings/seminars/programmes attended**

The valedictory function of the Green Skill Development Programme, Foundation Course: Biodiversity Conservationists was conducted on 10.11.2017 and certificates were distributed to seven students for completion of the course.
Dr. P. Lakshminarasimhan, Scientist ‘E’ & HoO, conducted the Ph.D. open defense of Ms. A.P. Janeesha for his thesis, “Taxonomic Studies On Family Gesneriaceae in South India supplemented with molecular data” at Dept. of Botany, Calicut University on 16.11.2017

Dr. P. Lakshminarasimhan attended the 83rd RCM at AJCIBIBG, BSI, Howrah on 22.11.2017
Dr. P. Lakshminarasimhan attended the Head of Offices meeting at CNH, BSI, Howrah on 23.11.2017 and gave a PPT on the progress of work of various action plan projects and also the new proposals.
Dr. P. Lakshminarasimhan attended the RAMC meeting at CNH, BSI, Howrah on 25.11.2017 and gave a PPT about WRC, BSI, Pune including the status of various ongoing projects.

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**Visitors/students**

Ms. Snehal Dhavale, Research Scholar from SPPU (Pune University) visited WRC, BSI for consultation of family Zygophyllaceae.


47 Students from Little Millennium Pre-School, Wakad, Pune visited WRC, BSI garden on 15.11.2017.

102 students from Orbis School, Keshavnagar, Pune visited WRC, BSI on 22.11.2017.

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Dr. P. Lakshminarasimhan
Scientist ‘E’ & HoO
Participants of five day training programme on basics of plant identification and nomenclature, organised at Eastern regional Centre, Botanical Survey of India, Shillong

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