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Date: 04.09.2024

Madam,

In reply to OM no. 24011/08/2019–GC dated. 25.03.2019 regarding monthly DO letter from Secretary (MoEF&CC) to the Cabinet Secretary, I am furnishing herewith the following major achievements of Botanical Survey of India for the Month of August, 2024.

Department: Botanical Survey of India

1. Important policy decisions taken, Major achievements during the month:

Scientists of BSI described two (02) plant species as new to science viz. *Crotalaria andamanica* F. Saleem, L.J. Singh & A. K. Pandey (Fabaceae) from Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India and *Boesenbergia kalakadensis* Saravanan T.S., Kaliamoorthy S. (Zingiberaceae), from Southern Western Ghats, India. Scientists of BSI have also reported three (03) taxa as new records including two (02) taxa as new records for India viz. *Cheirostylis tortilacinia* C.S. Leou (Orchidaceae) and *Herminium humidicola* (K.Y. Lang & D. S. Deng) X. H.Jin, Schuit., Raskoti & Lu Q.Huang (Orchidaceae: Orchidoideae) and one taxon viz. *Tradescantia fluminensis* Vell. (Commelinaceae) as new record for Himachal Pradesh. Further, Scientists of BSI have also rediscovered *Crepidium crenulatum* (Orchidaceae) after 132 years from the Western Ghats, India.

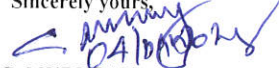
Scientists of BSI conducted 17 field / local tours and 2 Herbarium Consultation tour and collected 3204 field numbers. BSI prepared metadata of 7472 herbarium specimens. During this month, 9,20,853 visitors visited the official websites of BSI (6,74,667 visitors referred official website, 1,00,578 visitors referred archives, and 1,45,608 visitors visited Indian Virtual Herbarium).

Important events / programs organized / attended:

1. BSI, Kolkata and Berhampur University, Ganjam district, Odisha signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during a two-day "National Seminar on Algal Biodiversity, Biotechnology, and Environmental Sustainability (NSABBES-2024)" held on August 20-21, 2024 at Berhampur University. Dr. S.S. Dash, Scientist F & In-charge, Technical Sect. BSI, attended as "Guest of Honour". Besides, three other officers namely. Dr. S.K. Das, Sci. E, Dr. S.K. Yadav, Botanist and Dr. S. Bhakta, Botanist attended and presented their research findings on algal taxonomy in this seminar.
 2. BSI, NRC, Dehradun celebrated 'Foundation Day' program of BSI, NRC, Dehradun along with Senior Scientists and Staff of the center on 01.08.2024. On this occasion, all the staff of NRC participated in a Mega Tree Plantation and Sapling Distribution Program at Sahastradhara and nearby areas for plantation and increasing public awareness.
 3. BSI, NRC, Dehradun organized 'Five days Hands on training program on Taxonomy' in collaboration with USERC, Dehradun on 05.08.2024 and 09.08.2024.
 4. BSI, APRC, Itanagar, observed its 47th Foundation Day on August 8, 2024.
 5. BSI, ISIM, Kolkata celebrated 'World Biofuel Day' on 10th August, 2024 at Botanical Gallery and organized an awareness programme on 'Sustainable consumption of Fossil fuel and increase trend towards Biofuel' for the students and general visitors.
 6. BSI, SRC, NOEG, Yercaud Tamil Nadu organized a one day training programme in association with Forest Department, Salem Division and Tamil Nadu Wilderness Experience Corporation on 14th August 2024, for the unemployed youths from the local villagers, to undertake employment opportunities as guide for the Ecotourists.
 7. BSI and all its regional centres / units celebrated 78th Independence Day with enthusiasm and a strong sense of national pride on 15th August, 2024. The celebration included the vibrant Har Ghar Tiranga rally for Unity, which added to the patriotic fervor of the day. All officials and staff members participated happily and actively in the event, showcasing their unity and dedication to the nation.
 8. Dr. S.L. Meena, Scientist- E & HoO, BSI, AZRC, Jodhpur was honoured with "Late Pramod Puri Goswami Memorial Award 2024" by Veer Durgadash Rathaur Smriti Samiti for exceptional contribution towards environment and plant conservation on August 18, 2024.
 9. A 5-days IUCN Red List Assessor Training workshop was jointly conducted by BSI & ZSI for induction of training to the Scientists of both the organizations from 26th –30th August, 2024 at the Central National Herbarium, Howrah. The resource persons for conducting the training were training experts from IUCN, India.
- During this month 18 research papers got published by BSI scientists in International and National publications apart from participating in scientific lectures and publishing seminar abstracts. (Annexure 1).
2. Important policy matter held up on account of prolonged inter-ministerial consultations: NIL
 3. No. of cases of 'Sanction for prosecution' pending for more than 3 months: NIL
 4. Particulars of cases in which there has been a departure from the Transaction of Business Rules or established policy of the government: NIL
 5. Status of Rationalization of Autonomous Bodies: NA-
 6. Information on the specific steps taken for utilization of the space technology based tools and applications in governance and development: NIL
 7. Vacancy position of senior level appointments in the Ministry/ Department, including Autonomous Bodies/ PSUs: Communicated to the Ministry separately.
 8. List of cases in which ACC directions have not been complied with: NIL

With regards,

Sincerely yours,


C. MURUGAN
Director (i/c), BSI

To, Ms. Nameeta Prasad, JS, (CS-II), MoEF&CC, New Delhi – 3

Publications for the Month of August 2024

1. AAZHIVAENDHAN, G., C. RAJASEKAR, A.V.P. KARTHIKEYAN, S. JEEVITH, R. KOTTAIMUTHU AND T. SENTHILKUMAR 2024. Rediscovery of *Crepedium cremulatum* (Orchidaceae) from Western Ghats, India. *Rheedea* 34(2): 127–131.
2. BANDYOPADHYAY, S. AND A. KUMAR 2024. Comments on the typification of two names in *Bauhinia* (Leguminosae: Cercidoideae). *Rheedea* 34(2): 124–126.
3. DOGRA K. S., K. AMBRISH, R. K. SINGH AND B. MEENA (2024). *Tradescantia fluminensis* Vell. (Commelinaceae) – A New Record for the Flora of Himachal Pradesh, India. *Indian Forester*. 150(8): 802-804. (In press)
4. JESUBALAN D., A. BENNIAMIN, M. SUNDARI.2024. Study on spore germination and optimal conditions for the formation of gametophyte and sporophyte in a primitive fern *Botrychium daucifolium* Wall. Ex hook. & grev. (Ophioglossaceae). *Indian Fern J.* 41(1) : 23-35
5. KHANAL, M, S. SARKAR, S.K. RAI AND D. KUMAR, AND A. BHATTACHARJEE. 2024. *Cheirostylis tortilacinia* C.S. Leou (Orchidaceae), a new record for India and its typification. *Feddes Repert.* 2024;00: 1–5. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1002/fedr.202400015>
6. KOTHAREDDY, P., R.K. ARIGELA, AND B. DEJONG, Orchids of the Palni Hills, Tamil Nadu - A pictorial guide. Ambika Prasad Research Foundation, Odisha. 2024. ISBN: 978-81-967170-4-9.
7. NITHANIYAL S., S.J. IRWIN AND D. NARASHIMAN (2024) A Checklist of *Stenoendemic Angiosperms* of Tamil Nadu, *Rheedea* 34(2): 87–117.
8. PREMKUMAR, M. MANIKANDAN, R. AND M. U. SHARIEF, 2023. Extended distribution of *Cissampelopsis vivekananthanii* (Asteraceae) from Kerala State. *Indian Forester* 110(7): 721-722.
9. PUROHIT C.S. A note on Family Asteraceae of Todgarh-Raoli wildlife sanctuary, Rajasthan, India. *SPECIES* 25(76): 1 – 26. 2024.
10. PUROHIT, C. S. AND L. J. SINGH. A Note on Occurrence of an Endangered Plant *Cleome rutidosperma* var. *burmanii* from Andaman & Nicobar Islands. 2023. *Journal on New Biological Reports*. 12(1) 41 – 44
11. SALEEM, F., L.J. SINGH, AND A.K. PANDEY. 2024. *Crotalaria andamanica* (Fabaceae): A new species of rattle pod from Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India. *Taiwania* 69(1): 67–73
12. SARAVANAN, T. S. AND S. KALIAMOORTHY, 2024. *Boesenbergia kalakadensis* sp. nov. (Zingiberaceae) from southern Western Ghats, India. *Nordic Journal of Botany*. e04445: 1–5. <https://doi.org/10.1111/njb.04445> (ISSN: 1756-1051 DOP: 02.08.2024).
13. SINGH R.K., P.K. DEROLIYA AND S. KUMAR *Ilex moluccana* R. Kr. Singh, Deroliya and Sanjeet Kumar, a replacement name for *Ilex laurifolia* Zipp. exLoes. (Aquifoliaceae). *Journal of Biodiversity and Conservation* 8(3): 32–40.2024.
14. SINGH R.K., P.K. DEROLIYA AND S. KUMAR. *Cyrtandra fawcettii* R. Kr. Singh, Deroliya and Sanjeet Kumar, a replacement name for *C. serrata* Fawc. (Gesneriaceae). *Journal of Biodiversity and Conservation* 8(3): 41–44. 2024.
15. SINGH, L. J. C. P. VIVEK, B. C. DEY, C. S. PUROHIT, V. RANJAN, G. A. EKKA, M. C. NAIK, AND F. SALEEM, Dhanikhari Experimental Garden-cum-Arboretum in Botanical Gardens and Their Role in Plant Conservation. 2024. In: T. Pullaiah and David A. Galbraith (eds.) *Asian Botanical Gardens*, CRC Press, Taylor and Francis group. Vol. 2: 187-201.
16. TSERING, J., P. S. KUSHWAHA AND A. BHATTACHARJEE. 2024. *Herminium humidicola* (Orchidaceae: Orchidoideae), an addition to the orchid Flora of India. *Rheedea* 34(2): 50–52.
17. V. IRUDAYARAJ, A. BENNIAMIN, S. AROKIA RAJ.2024. Apogamous *Isoetes coromandelina* L.f. (Isoetaceae) with asynaptic meiosis Caryologia. *International Journal of Cytology, Cytosystematics and Cytogenetics* 76(4): 51-57, DOI: 10.36253/caryologia-2222
18. VINAY RANJAN, HEMANT KUMAR, & ANANT KUMAR. Revised lectotypification of four names in *Eriolaena* (Malvaceae). 2024. *Phytotaxa* 662(3):298-300.