

DO. No.: BSI – 8/1/PA/2019

Date: 01.08.2022

Dear Madam,

In reply to OM no. 24011/08/2019 – GC dtd. 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 **July 2022**.

Department: Botanical Survey of India

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

Scientists of BSI reported **four taxa as new to science** from the Western Ghats viz. *Brevistachys indica* Rashmi Dubey from Sanjay Gandhi N.P., Maharashtra, *Arundinella mukurthiana* M. Murugesan & al. from the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserves, and two epiphytic *Impatiens* L. (Balsaminaceae) viz. *I. keralensis* Saravanan & Kaliamoorthy and *I. kurichiarmalayana* Saravanan & Kaliamoorthy from the southern Western Ghats, India. BSI also reported **three taxa as new records**, including viz. *Aspidistra yingjiangensis* (Asparagaceae: Nolinoidae), for the flora of India and two generic records i.e. *Heterotis* (Melastomataceae) and *Myriactis* (Asteraceae) to the flora of Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh respectively.

In addition, BSI scientists conducted 6 field/ local tours and collected **400** field nos. of specimens. Towards digitization, completed metadata of **71487** herbarium specimens have been completed. During the month, **3,92,555** visitors visited BSI official websites (160664 visitors referred BSI homepage website, 80443 visitors referred BSI archive, and 151448 visitors visited the Indian Virtual Herbarium). Towards public services, **105** plant samples were identified to the students and general public and a revenue of Rs. **37,043.00** was generated from various sources.

Important events / programmes organized / attended:

1. The **Indian Virtual Herbarium (IVH)** portal has been inaugurated by the Hon'ble Union Minister, MoEF&CC Shri Bhupender Yadav, from BSI-Central National Herbarium, Howrah on 1st July 2022. The same has been narrated by Shri Narendra Modi, the Hon'ble Prime Minister, in his 91st session of "Man ki Baat" programmes, also appreciated the IVH portal of BSI and told that it will serve as an important national resource to the Botanical research for the country.
2. Dr. A.A. Mao, Director, BSI attended the meeting of IBPES -Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services at Bonn, Germany from 3–9 July 2022 as an Indian delegation.
3. **The Van Mahotsava** was observed in the first week of July 2022 by BSI and all its regional centres and units. On this occasion, a series of programmes, such as plantation drives, awareness programmes and competitions were organized at various regional centres of BSI. Around 1000 saplings of various important plants were planted in AJCB IBG, Howrah and 300 saplings at NRC Dehradun. Besides, under outreach activities, the scientists of BSI also visited various school and colleges to encourage students for plantations and setting up medicinal gardens in school premises.
4. BSI, CNH, Howrah organized a **workshop cum hands on training on Molecular Taxonomy of Plants** (including Fungi) from 11th to 15th July 2022. The inhouse 15 officers attended and trained for molecular taxonomy.
5. BSI WRC, Pune organized DST SERB (Vritika and Karyashala) Training on **Plant Taxonomy and Conservation** for college students from 1st to 30th July, 2022.

Important scientific publications:

During this month **16** research publications have been published by BSI scientists in various International and National research journals (*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 ongoing Swachhta Abhiyaan (Progress under Special Campaign):** Under outreach activities, regular cleaning drives and public awareness campaigns are organized in BSI.
6. **Status of Rationalization of Autonomous Bodies:** NIL
7. **Information on the specific steps taken for utilization of the space technology based tools and applications in governance and development:** NIL
8. **Vacancy position of senior level appointments in the Ministry/ Department, including Autonomous Bodies/ PSUs:** Recruitment of 10 posts of scientist 'C' is pending in Ministry. UPSC has declared the result of 13 posts of Botanists in BSI.
9. **List of cases in which ACC directions have not been complied with:** NIL

With regards,

Sincerely yours,



A. A. MAO

