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A. A. Mao  
Director



भारत सरकार  
पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
भारतीय वनस्पति सर्वेक्षण  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST  
& CLIMATE CHANGE  
BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

DO. No.: BSI - 8/1/PA/2019 118

Date: 04.03.2024

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 February, 2024.

Department: Botanical Survey of India

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

Scientists of BSI reported 1 new genus *Pseudotrachys* of *Poaceae* (Paniceae: Panicoideae); 5 new species namely, *Lepidagathis dayanandanii* A.F.J.King, Gnanasek. & Arisdason, *Lepidagathis narasimhanii* Gnanasek., A.F.J. King & Arisdason, *Dicliptera srisailamica* Rasingam, K. Nethaji & G. Susmitha, *Senecio sisporensis* P. Murugan et. al., (Asteraceae) and *Amanita indovaginata* Ghosh A., Kumar A., Hembrom M.E., Chakraborty D., from fungi; 1 new variety of *Heteropogon ritchiei* (Hook.f.) Blatt. & McCann var. *glabrum* from *Poaceae*; 3 new additions of Angiosperms namely, *Psidium guineense* Sw., *Syzygium syzygioides* (Miq.) Merr. & L.M. Perry and *Momordica sahyadrica* Kattuk. & V.T. Antony., from Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary to the Flora of Tamil Nadu state.

Scientists of BSI conducted 11 field / local tours and collected 546 field nos. of specimens. BSI completed metadata of 2870 herbarium specimens. During this month, 3,80,442 visitors visited the official websites of BSI (2,24,702 visitors referred official website, 62,132 visitors referred archives, and 93,608 visitors visited Indian Virtual Herbarium).

Important events / programs organized / attended:

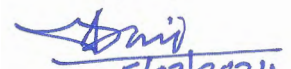
- All the offices of Botanical Survey of India celebrated World Wetland Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2024. On this occasion various awareness programme and competitions were organized.
- Scientist of BSI (Dr. D.K. Agrawala, Scientist 'E') attended World Wetland Day at Sirpur Lake, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, in the august presence of Dr. Musonda Mumba, Secretary General, Ramsar Convention on wetlands and Dr. Mohan Yadav, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh, India on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2024 and released the Books of Vol I & II of Compendium on Phytodiversity of Ramsar Sites in India, published by BSI.
- Botanical Survey of India celebrated its 135<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 and conducted webinar among staffs for achieving the target vision 2047 of BSI.
- The Botanical Survey of India, Sikkim Himalayan Regional Centre, Gangtok in collaboration with the Directorate of Cinchona and Other Medicinal Plants, Mungpoo, West Bengal, took the initiative for the conservation of Windamere Palm (*Trachycarpus latisectus* Spanner, Noltie & Gibbons), locally known as 'Purbong', an endangered plant species that is known only from some limited locations in Mirik-Santook, Kalimpong on February 15, 2024, under the Mission LIFE initiative.
- Ms. Nameeta Prasad, Joint Secretary, MoEFCC, inaugurated the Wild Edible Fruit Section at AJCB Indian Botanic Garden, Howrah, on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2024.
- Under Mission LIFE verticals of Healthy Lifestyle the Botanical Survey of India, Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong organized various indoor and outdoor games and celebrated the sports week during 19-23, February, 2024.
- 13<sup>th</sup> RAMC Meeting was conducted at Andaman & Nicobar Regional Centre from 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2024, under the Chairmanship of Prof. C. R. Babu, Professor Emeritus, University of Delhi.

During this month 25 research papers, 3 books and 2 book chapters got published by BSI scientists in International and National publications. (Annexure 1).

- Important policy matter held up on account of prolonged inter-ministerial consultations: NIL
- No. of cases of 'Sanction for prosecution' pending for more than 3 months: NIL
- Particulars of cases in which there has been a departure from the Transaction of Business Rules or established policy of the government: NIL
- Status of ongoing Swachhta Abhiyaan (Progress under Special Campaign): Under outreach activities, regular cleaning drives and public awareness campaigns are organized in BSI.
- Status of Rationalization of Autonomous Bodies: NIL
- Information on the specific steps taken for utilization of the space technology based tools and applications in governance and development: NIL
- Vacancy position of senior level appointments in the Ministry/ Department, including Autonomous Bodies/ PSUs: Communicated in the Ministry separately.
- List of cases in which ACC directions have not been complied with: NIL

With regards,

Sincerely yours,

  
A. A. MAO  
5/03/2024

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



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## PUBLICATIONS OF FEBRUARY, 2024

1. BASIL, P. M. SULAIMAN AND P. MURUGAN. 2023. '*Syzygium sasidharanii* Sujanapal (Myrtaceae) - A new distributional record for Tamil Nadu'. *J. Econ. Taxon. Bot.* 47(4): 195-197
2. BASIL, P. W. ARISDASON AND C. MURUGAN (2023). *Ruellia malabarica* is a superfluous name for *Andrographis echioides* (Acanthaceae). *Rheedea* 33(4): 389-390. Published online on 31.01.2024
3. GHOSH, A., A. KUMAR, M.E. HEMBROM AND D. CHAKRABORTY. 2024. *Amanita indovaginata*, a new species from tropical Sal forest in India. *Czech Mycology* 76(1):1-15.
4. GNANASEKARAN, G., A.F.J. KING, M.N. MITTA, AND W. ARISDASON, 2023. Two new heterotypic synonyms in *Lepidagathis* Willd. (Acanthaceae: Barlerieae) from India *Rheedea* 33(4): 204-207. Published online on 31.01.2024
5. KOTTAIMUTHU, R. 2024. The correct name for *Desmodium rotundifolium* Baker in *Desmodiastrum* (Desmodieae: Fabaceae). *Nordic Journal of Botany* 2024(2): 1-3. doi: 10.1111/njb.04150.
6. KUMAR S. AND P.K. DEROLIYA. 2024. Khejri tree, a boon for Thar Desert, India (*Editorial*). *J. Biodivers. Conservation* 8(1): E1.
7. KUMAR, MIDIGESI ANIL, P. RAVICHANDRAN, D. NARASIMHAN AND B. R. P. RAO. 2023. *Pseudotrachys*, a new genus of *Poaceae* (Paniceae: Panicoideae) from India. *Indian Journal of Forestry* 46 (2): 63-71.
8. MAURYA ONKAR NATH, ASHUTOSH KUMAR VERMA AND AVINASH BHARATI. 2023. Checklist and key to the Avertroaceae, Elaeocarpaceae, Linaceae, Malpighiaceae, Oxalidaceae, Portulacaceae, Tamaricaceae and Zygophyllaceae of Bihar. *International Journal of Agriculture and Allied Sciences*, 8(2):64-72.
9. MEENA, S.L., HARIKRISHNA, P. AND DEROLIYA, P.K. 2023. Analysis of angiosperm flora of Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat, India. *Journal of Economic and Taxonomic Botany*, 47 (4):162-170.
10. MURUGAN, P, R. KOTTAIMUTHU, K.A. SUJANA AND M.U. SHARIEF. 2023. "Rediscovery of *Acilepis ananimudica* (B.V. Sheety & Vivek) Kottiam. - Asteraceae, A threatened Endemic species of Western Ghats, India in *Indian Forester*, 2023 149 (12): 1294 - 1296.
11. MURUGAN, P., B. KARTHIK, M. MURUGESAN AND C. MURUGAN. 2024. *Senecio sisparensis* (Asteraceae), a new species from southern Western Ghats, India in *Phytotaxa* 637 (2): 206-210.
12. PANDA, S. P., P. MARDARAJ, Z. MAZHAR, K. CHAKRABORTY, S. DASGUPTA, D. BEHERA AND R.K. NAYAK. 2024. Orchids, the Jewels of Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary of Balasore District, Odisha, India; In: *Biological Forum - An International Journal*; 16(1): 205-212.
13. PANDA, S. P., Z. MAZHAR, K. CHAKRABORTY, S. DASGUPTA, D. BEHERA AND R. K. NAYAK. 2024. Some potent medicinal Orchids of Similipal Biosphere Reserve, Odisha, India; In: *Biological Forum - An International Journal*; 16(1): 223-227.
14. POTDAR G.G., T.J. SHAIKH AND M.Y. KAMBLE. 2024. *Heteropogon ritchiei* (Hook. f.) Blatt. & McCann var. *glabrum*, A new variety of *Poaceae* from Western Ghats of India. *Indian Forester*. 150(1):89-90.
15. PRIYANKA., S. K. SINGH AND ARUN K PANDEY.2023. Recircumscription of *Lophoejeunea sikkimensis* (Lejeuneaceae: Marchantiophyta) and its varieties in India. *Bryophyte*. 46(1): 109-118.
16. RAKESH G VADHYAR AND SUJANA K.A. 2024. Three New Additions of Angiosperms from Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary to the Flora of Tamil Nadu, India. *International Journal of Theoretical & Applied Sciences* 16(1): 61- 63.



17. RASINGAM, L., NETHAJI, K., SUSMITHA, G., RANJANA, J., VARSHINI, G. AND P. RANJITHKUMAR, 2023. *Dicliptera srisailamica* (Acanthaceae)- a new species from Eastern Ghats of India. *Rheedea* 33(4):221-225. <https://dx.doi.org/10.22244/rheedea.2023.33.04.05>
18. SEAL TAPAN, KAUSIK CHAUDHURI AND BASUNDHARA PILLAI. 2024. Biodiversity and Healing: Exploring the medicinal potential of wild edible plants abundant in antioxidants. *International Journal of Research in Pharmaceutical Sciences*, 15(1), 40-58.
19. SINGH R.K. AND S. KUMAR. 2024. Two replacement names and lectotypifications in *Ditassa* and *Gonolobus* (Apocynaceae, Asclepiadoideae). *Journal of Biodiversity and Conservation* 8(1): 11-23.
20. SINGH, L.J., DEY, B.C., MITRA, P.K. *et al.*, 2024. Diversity of reproductive phenology of trees in the tropical evergreen forest of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India. *Trop Ecol.* DOI: 10.1007/s42965-024-00326-z.
21. SINGH, R.K. AND S. KUMAR. 2024. *Allophylus liogierii* *nom. nov.*, a replacement name for *A. montanus* Alain (Sapindaceae). *Journal of Biodiversity and Conservation* 8(1): 29-35.
22. SINGH, R.K. AND S. KUMAR. 2024. *Eragrostis mukhraniae* *nom. nov.*, a replacement name for *E. rigida* A.Camus (Poaceae). *Journal of Biodiversity and Conservation* 8(1): 07-10.
23. SOMAN, SANEESH CHERAPURATH, ANJANEYULU PARADESI, KUMAR, ANIL MEDIGESI, SHARMA HIMANI, RAO, BOYINA RAVI PRASAD, LADOUCEUR, EMMA AND KNIGHT, TIFFANY M. 2023. Enhancing ecosystem services through collaborative grass removal and fire exclusion in the Eastern Ghats. *Biotropica* DOI: 10.1111/btp.13269.
24. SOUMYA P., DENG Y., DASH S.S. & P. SUNOJKUMAR. 2023. A taxonomic revision of the genus *Justicia* (Acanthaceae) in Peninsular India. *Rheedea* 33(4): 270-331.
25. YADAV, S.K., ARON SANTHOSH KUMAR Y. AND M. PALANISAMY. 2023. Taxonomic account of two red seaweed genera *Porphyra* C. Agardh and *Pyropia* J. Agardh (Bangiales: Rhodophyta) in India. *Journal of Plant Development Sciences* 15(11): 581-595.

#### Books published:

1. MAO, A.A., S.S. DASH, U.L.TIWARI (Eds.) 2024. Flora of India, Vol.15 (Stylidaceae-Primulaceae) Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata, pp 1-643. ISBN: 978-81-958726-8-8.
2. MAO, A.A., D.K.AGRAWALA, S.S.DASH, VIVEK C.P., SINJINI MUKHERJEE, J. JAYANTHI AND J.S.JALAL (Eds.) 2024. Compendium on Phytodiversity of Ramsar Sites in India, Volume I, Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata, pp.1-732. ISBN: 978-81-965332-0-5.
3. MAO, A.A., D.K.AGRAWALA, S.S.DASH, VIVEK C.P., SINJINI MUKHERJEE, J. JAYANTHI AND J.S.JALAL (Eds.) Compendium on Phytodiversity of Ramsar Sites in India, Volume II, Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata, pp.1-805. ISBN: 978-81-965332-8-1.

#### Chapters:

1. AISHWARYYA MITRA AND MANAS R. DEBTA. 2024. *Taxonomic studies of genus Kaempferia L. (Zingiberaceae) in India*. Published on the Book of Abstracts at the "International Seminar on Plant Systematics: Present Status and Future Prospects" organized by the Department of Botany, University of Calicut from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2024. Pp. 185.
2. REDDY, CH.S., K. AMMANI, AND R.K. ARIGELA, 2024. Chemical Constituents and Biological Activities of *Diospyros vera* (Lour.) Chev. In: *Phytochemical Composition and Pharmacy of Medicinal Plants. Vol. 1*. Pullaiah, T. (ed.) pp 273-279. Apple Academic Press, Inc., USA. ISBN: 978-1-77491-528-8.