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निदेशक
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/2019/353

Date: 31.03.2021

Dear Smt. Pandey,

With reference to O.M. 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 **March, 2021**

Department: Botanical Survey of India

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

Scientists of BSI reported **three plant species as new to science** namely *Elaeocarpus gadgilia* (Elaeocarpaceae); *Ceropegia ansariana* (Apocynaceae) and *Corynandra telanganensis* (Cleomaceae) from India. Beside this, they also reported **six taxa of plants as new additions** viz. *Stereochilus erinaceus* (Rchb.f.) Garay (Orchidaceae) and *Desmodium heterocarpon* subsp. *ovalifolium* (Leguminosae) as new additions to the flora of India and four taxa i.e. *Ammannia auriculata* Willd. (Lythraceae); *Chlorophytum vestitum* Baker (Asparagaceae); *Christisonia siamensis* Craib (Orobanchaceae) and *Elatostema cuneatum* Wight (Urticaceae) as new additions to the flora of Andaman Islands.

Important events / programmes organized / attended:

- Director, BSI organized a virtual meeting (VC) with the Experts Committee of the ABG scheme on 13th March, 2021 for discuss on the revised guidelines of the scheme.
- Dr. A.A. Mao, Director, BSI, Dr. S.S. Dash, Sci. E & Incharge, Tech. Section Hq. attended the Indian Botanic Gardens Congress, held during 19-21 March 2021 at National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Lucknow.
- BSI organized Two Hindi Workshops at BSI, CBL, Howrah and BSI Headquarters, Kolkata on 18th and 22nd March, 2021 respectively to promote the uses of Hindi language in Official works.
- BSI, NRC Dehradun observed International Day of Forests on 21 March, 2021. On this occasion plantation activities were done in its experimental garden.
- BSI, SRC Coimbatore organized a webinar on “Management of Water Resources with emphasis on Mangrove ecosystems” on the occasion of International Water Day on 22 March, 2021.
- Dr. S.L. Meena, Scientist ‘E’ and Dr. S.K. Yadav, Botanist attended a meeting with the West Bengal Biodiversity Board on 23 March, 2021 at Aranya Bhavan, Kolkata.

Important scientific publications:

During this month 18 research publications have been published by BSI scientists in various international and national research journals (*Annexure I*).

2. Important policy matter is held up on account of prolonged inter-ministerial consultation: NIL
3. Compliance of COS decisions: Nothing pending
4. No. of cases of ‘Sanction for prosecution’ pending for more than 3 months: NIL
5. Particulars of cases in which there has been a departure from the Transaction of Business Rules or established policy of the government: NIL
6. Status of implementation of e-governance: PFMS, CPGRAMS, e-Publications, GEM Portal of *Nelumbo* etc. have already been implemented.
7. Details of cases in which ACC directions have not been complied with: NIL
8. Status of Public grievances:

No. of public grievances redressed during the month	No. of Public grievances pending at the end of month
1	0

9. Information on the specific steps taken by the ministry/department for utilization of the space technology based tools and applications in governance and development: NIL

With regards,

Sincerely yours,

A. A. MAO 31/03/2021

To
Smt. Manju Pandey, Jt. Secretary, (CS), MoEF& CC, New Delhi – 3



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Important Research Publications

1. BHANDARI, A., H. SINGH, A. SRIVASTAVA, P. KUMAR, G. S. PANWAR AND A. A. MAO 2021. In vitro propagation and cytological analysis of *Sophoramollis* Royle: an endangered medicinal shrub. *J. Genetic Eng. Biotech.* 19: 40.
2. BORAH, D. AND R.K. SINGH 2021. Rediscovery of *Didymocarpus hookeri* (Gesneriaceae), an endemic, rare herb after 81 years from India. *Indian Forester* 147(3): 309-310.
3. CHAKRABORTY, O., S. SENGUPTA, S. CHAKRABORTY, RIJUPALIKA ROY AND D.K. AGRAWALA 2021. *Stereochilus erinaceus* (Rchb.f.) Garay (Orchidaceae) – A new distributional record for India with notes on its relationships and threat status assessment. *J. Orch. Soc. India* 34(1-2): 149-153.
4. DEY, SANGITA AND P. V. PRASANNA. 2020. New varieties and synonyms in the genus *Tripogon* Roem. & Schult. (Poaceae) in India. *Indian J. Forest.* 43(2): 150-172.
5. DHOLE, P. A. 2021. Wild edible plants with its socio-economic importance used by tribes of Gaya District, Bihar. *Int. J. Adv. Res. Biol. Sci.* 8(1): 51-58.
6. GARG, A., ROXANA T. PATRUT, A. PATRUT, S. WOODBORNE AND L. RAKOSY 2021. Radiocarbon dating and status of the oldest extant Ceylon iron wood (*Manikarhexandra*) in the Riverine Ramsar site of India. *Current Sciences.* 20(3): 562-566, 2021.
7. KHOLIA, B.S., C. R. FRASER-JENKINS, N. PUNETHA AND S. K. SINGH. 2021. On the occurrence of *Oeosporangium tenuifolium* (Burm.f.) Fraser- Jenk. & Pariyar in the Western Himalaya, Uttarakhand, India. *Indian J. Forestry* 43(2): 166-168.
8. MAYA, A.M., K.M. PRABHU KUMAR, SUJANA K.A., S. JOSE AND S. VEERANKUTTY 2021. *Elaeocarpus gadgillii* (Elaeocarpaceae): a new species from Western Ghats (India). *Phytotaxa* 489 (1): 087-093.
9. MEHALA DEVI, R., NITHYA, S.P., MANIKANDAN, R., ARISDASON, W. AND MURUGAN, C. Leafless Goglet Plant. *ENVIS Newsletter* 25(1): 5–6. 2020.
10. MURUGAN, P. AND C. MURUGAN 2021. Taxonomy of *Ophiorrhiza pectinata*: Indo–Lankan Species with Notes on Lectotypification and Identity of *Ophiorrhiza falcata* (RUBIACEAE). *Phytotaxa* 490 (3): 278–284
11. MURUGESAN, M. AND A.A. MAO 2021. *Ceropegia aansariana* (Apocynaceae: Ceropegieae), a new species from Mizoram, Northeast India. *Taiwania* 66(2): 121–125.
12. NAIK M.C AND SINGH L.J. *Desmodium heterocarpon* subsp. *Ovalifolium* addition to the flora of India from South Andaman Islands, India. 2021. *Species* 22(69) : 80-83.
13. NAIK M.C., SINGH L.J., EKKA G.A. AND VIVEK C.P. 2021. Addition of four species to the flora of Andaman Islands, India. 2021. *J. Threat. Taxa* 13 (2): 17843-17846.