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निदेशक
A. A. Mao
Director



सत्यमेव जयते

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 / 1581

Date: 02.03.2023

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 February, 2023.

Department: Botanical Survey of India

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

Scientists of BSI reported **one taxa as new record to India viz. *Pteroceras viridiflorum***: A Sri Lankan species (Orchidaceae: Vandeeae) Besides, they have also reported one species viz. *Osbeckia yercaudensis* (Melastomataceae) collected after 50 years or more and two lesser known stenoendemic species viz., *Helichrysum wightii* C.B. Clarke ex Hook.f. and *Vernonia malabarica* Hook.f., of Asteraceae have been rediscovered/recollected after a century from the Western Ghats.

In addition, BSI scientists conducted **2 field / local tours and 1 Herbarium Consultation Tour** and collected around **233** field nos. of specimens. Towards digitization, BSI completed metadata of **6622** herbarium specimens. During the month, **358671** visitors visited the official websites of BSI. (**160938** visitors referred BSI official website, **82840** visitors referred BSI archives, and **114893** visitors visited the Indian Virtual Herbarium).

Important events / programmes organized / attended:

1. Botanical Survey of India celebrated its 134th Foundation Day during 13th-14th February 2023 at 'Bhasha Bhawan', National Library Campus, Kolkata. To commemorate this important day, a two days International Symposium on Plant Taxonomy, Ethnobotany, and Botanic Gardens was organized. Honourable Union Cabinet Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupinder Yadav Ji graced the occasion on 14.02.2023 and interacted with the Scientists, professors, students, and participants. The symposium was attended by more than 400 participants from all over India and 22 foreign delegates. The participants included students, research scholars and professors from around 93 colleges in India and about 70 delegates from Institutions/organisations of National repute.
2. All the Regional Centres and Unit Offices of Botanical Survey of India observed World Wetlands Day on 2nd February 2023. Various competition such as essay writing competition, Painting competition, extempore competition for the local school children was organized on that day.
3. The BSI-Northern Regional Centre, Dehradun organized a "Botanical Nomenclature Course" at BSI, NRC, Dehradun from 06.02.2023 to 10.02.2023 which was attended by 61 participants from all over India. Dr. Kanchi N. Gandhi, Senior Nomenclature Registrar, Harvard University Herbaria served as the course director in this programme.
4. The scientific staff of AJCBIBG attended the meeting with 02 Scientist from The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, United Kingdom and 04 Officials of Nepal Govt., Ministry of Forest and Environment, National Botanical Garden, Lalitpur, Nepal in presence of D/BSI on 15.02.2023 and to discuss on the possible areas of interest and scope of collaboration.
5. The prestigious Prof. K.S. Thind Medal for 2020 was conferred to Dr. Kanad Das, Sci-E, BSI-CNH, Howrah from Association for Plant Taxonomy at Botanical Survey of India, Northern Regional Centre, Dehradun.
6. Dr. S.K. Singh, Sci-E & HoO, BSI-NRC, Dehradun has received the Ram Udar Gold medal from the Association of Plant Taxonomy (APT) for the year 2020.
7. Dr. S.S. Dash received the Prof. M. B. Raizada Medal (2022) from the Association of Plant Taxonomy (APT) for his significant contribution to the field of Taxonomy of Himalayan flora.

Important scientific publications:

During this month **4 books and 15** 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:** Recently Ministry has advertised 4 posts of scientists (Sci. C 1 post; and Sci. E 2 posts and Sci. F 1 post) in BSI and it is under process.
9. **List of cases in which ACC directions have not been complied with: NIL**

With regards,

Sincerely yours,

2/3/2023
A.A. Mao
Director

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



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List of Publications for February, 2023Research Papers published: 15

1. ARIGELA R.K., R.K. SINGH AND C. RAJASEKAR 2023. Taxonomy and typification of Indian endemic *Impatiens goughii* (Balsaminaceae). *Annales Botanici Fennici* 60: 43–59.
2. ARIGELA R.K., R.K. SINGH AND C.S. REDDY 2023. Morphological variability in *Cyanotis fasciculata* (Commelinaceae) in different habitats in India and lectotypification of its ten heterotypic synonyms. *Annales Botanici Fennici* 60: 7-22.
3. GUPTA, P. 2022. Occurrence of *Anabaena Bory ex Bornet* and *Flahault* in Ganga Water. *Anusandhan* 8(1): 60 - 64.
4. JALANDER, V., AND J. SWAMY 2022. Extended distribution of endemic species *Eragrostis nilgiriensis* Vivek, G.V.S.Murthy & V.J.Nair (Poaceae: Chloridoideae). *Nelumbo*. Vol 64 (2): 266-268
5. JENA R., H. SWAIN, S. SAMANTA, A. KHANDUAL, AND A. K. MUKHERJEE 2023. Seed biopriming of endophytic fungi isolated from wild rice enhances growth promotion and disease resistance in rice crop. *Conference Proceedings of International conference on Agriculture & Rural Development (AGRIVISION-2023)* 1(1):72. (ISBN: 978-81-960392-0-2).
6. BHARATI, K.A., A.A. MAO AND A. KUMAR 2023. Indian Virtual Herbarium: The Country's Largest Digital Herbarium and A New Resource for Botanists. *Taxon* 72 (1): 221–226.
7. KOTTAIMUTHU, R. 2023. Validation of *Myristica pushpangadaniana* (Myristicaceae) *Phytotaxa* 584(2): 133–134.
8. M. PREMKUMAR, M. MURUGESAN, R. MANIKANDAN AND B. KARTHIK 2023. Re-collection of two lesser known steno-endemic species of Asteraceae: After a century from the Western Ghats, India *Nelumbo*: Vol. 64(2): 297-302.
9. MAHESH. Y., L. RASINGAM & M. VENLKAT RAMANA 2022. Three New Distributional Records to the Flora of Andhra Pradesh, India. *Indian Forester* 148(2): 1274-1275.
10. MAINA V., R. KUMAR AND C.S. PUROHIT 2023. A conspectus of Flowering plants of Aliya-bet, Bharuch, Gujarat. *Phytotaxonomy*, 32 – 48.
11. PUROHIT C.S. AND R.N. KULLOLI *Euphorbia jodhpurensis*: The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2022: e.T177962845A177969097.2022.<https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2022-2.RLTS.T177962845A177969097>. en
12. PUROHIT C.S., R. KUMAR AND R.N. KULLOLI 2022. Rediscovery of *Strobilanthes halbergii* Blatt. (Acanthaceae) and endemic species after a century from Mount Abu, Rajasthan, India. *Phytotaxonomy*, 22 – 27.
13. SULAIMAN, M., M. MURUGESAN AND C. MURUGAN 2022. *Pteroceras viridiflorum* (Orchidaceae: Vandaeae): A Sri Lankan species reported from India and a review of *Proteroceras holtumii*, Western Ghats, India *Nelumbo*: Vol. 64(2): 181-186.
14. SWAMY, J. AND L. RASINGAM 2022. Report on the extended distribution of endemic and threatened species *Amorphophallus mysorensis* (Araceae) from Odisha, India. *Nelumbo*. Vol 64 (2): 230-232
15. SARAVANAN, T. S. AND S. KALIAMOORTHY 2023. *Osbeckia yercaudensis* (Melastomataceae) a new species from the Eastern Ghats, India. *Phytotaxa*. 583(3): 292–296. <http://doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.583.3.8>.

BOOKS:

1. GOGOI, R., N. SHERPA, A. A. MAO, S. RAI AND S. GUPTA. Rhododendrons of Sikkim & Darjeeling Himalaya: An illustrated Account ISBN: 978-81-950725-2-1
2. A. BENNIAMIN 2023 Pteridophytes of Goa published by Goa Biodiversity Board in association with Botanical Survey of India released on 4th Feb 2023 at Goa
3. S.K.SINGH, A. BENNIAMIN, C.R.JENKINS AND V.K.RAWAT 2023. Pteridophytes of Meghalaya – A Pictorial Guide. 2023
4. Book of abstracts: International Symposium on Plant Taxonomy, Ethnobotany and Botanic Gardens (13th -14th February, 2023) by Botanical Survey of India. ISBN : 978-81-958726-6-4