

DO. No.: BSI – 8/1/PA/2019 / 162

Date: 02.06.2023

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 May, 2023.

Department: Botanical Survey of India

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

Scientists of BSI reported one **new species** viz. *Impatiens rajibgogoi* Sherpa, M.Khanal & M.Chettri (Balsaminaceae) from Sikkim. Further, reported **three taxa** as new records to India viz. *Sarcopyramis napalensis* Wall. var. *bodinieri* (H. Lév) H. Lév (Melastomataceae) from Arunachal Pradesh, *Barbilophozia barbata* (Schmidel ex Schreb.) Loeske Kour A. & S.K. Singh and *Barbilophozia lycopodioides* (Wallr.) Loeske Kour A. & S. K. Singh (Anastrophyllaceae) from the Western Himalayan regions. BSI also reported **three taxa** as new additions to states viz. *Ceratostylis radiata* J.J. Sm., and *Stereochilus laxus* (Rchb. f.) Garay (Orchidaceae) to Arunachal Pradesh and *Juncus wallichianus* J. Gay ex Laharpe (Juncaceae), to the flora of Chhattisgarh.

During this month, Scientists of BSI conducted 3 field / local tours and 1 Herbarium Consultation Tours and collected 115 field nos. of specimens. Towards digitization, BSI completed metadata of 3724 herbarium specimens. During this month, 493842 visitors visited the official websites of BSI (189305 visitors referred BSI official website, 192181 visitors referred BSI archives, and 112356 visitors visited the Indian Virtual Herbarium).

Important events / programmes organized / attended:

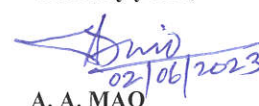
1. The 12th RAMC of BSI was held at BSI, NRC, Dehradun on 5th & 6th May, 2023 under the Chairmanship of Prof. C.R. Babu, Emeritus Professor, Delhi University and auspicious presence of Ms. Nameeta Prasad (IA&AS), JS, MoEF&CC, New Delhi and other members of the Committee.
2. Botanical Survey of India and all its regional centres observed the **International Day for Biological Diversity** on 22.05.2023. On this occasion, Dr. A. A. Mao, Director, BSI delivered a talk on the theme *From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity*. The speech was followed by a mass rally. Besides, Drawing and Quiz competitions were organized for the students.
3. Dr. A. A. Mao, Director, BSI attended the 5th *World Congress on Homeopathy and Traditional Medicine* on 27th May, 2023 at Kolkata.
4. Dr. S. S. Dash, Sci-E & In-charge, Tech. Sect. BSI-HQ and Dr. K. Avinash Bharati, Scientist D, CNH, Howrah delivered talks at the 5 days Faculty Development Programme on '**Plant Taxonomy and Biodiversity Conservation**' on 21st May 2023 at MSCB University, Baripada, Odisha. Dr. S. S. Dash also attended a pre- Ph.D seminar of his student Shri. Abhijit Kumar Dutta, Dept. of Botany, Viswa-Bharati, Shantiniketan on 18th May 2023.
5. BSI, ISIM, Kolkata participated in the **International Museum Expo 2023** organized by the Ministry of Culture at Pragati Maidan New Delhi from 18th – 20th May 2023, under the supervision of Dr. Manas Bhaumik, Scientist E, ISIM, Kolkata.
6. BSI, ISIM, Kolkata observed its **122nd Foundation Day** on 29th May 2023. On this occasion, Dr. A. A. Mao, Director delivered a lecture on the value of the Botanical Gallery. Dr. Piyasi Bharasa, Assistant Professor, Department of Museology, University of Calcutta delivered a lecture on '*Plants and Museum: Issues and Opportunities*'.
7. BSI, ANRC, Port Blair organized the G20 India Mega Beach Clean Up event at the Wandoor Beach, Port Blair on 21st May 2023. All BSI officers and staff members along with officials of the Forest Range office, Manglutang, South Andaman participated in the event.
8. Under the Mission LiFE campaign, BSI organized 952 programmes, reaching out to around 40200 people.
9. BSI, WRC, Pune and NRC, Dehradun received ISO 9001:2015 certificates for Quality Management System.

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 Mission LiFE 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:** Communicated in the Ministry separately.
9. **List of cases in which ACC directions have not been complied with:** NIL

With regards,

Sincerely yours,



A. A. MAO

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



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LIST OF PUBLICATIONS FOR MAY, 2023

1. BHATTACHARJEE, A., J. TSERING, LAYOLA M.R., F. BANU AND A. KUMAR 2023. Elucidating taxonomic status of *Goodyera medogensis* (Orchidaceae) based on morpho-molecular data. *Phytotaxa*. 595 (2): 209–218.
2. DEBTA M.R., MAITY R., DASH S.S. AND S. KUMAR. 2023. *Sarcopyramis napalensis* var. *bodinieri* (Melastomataceae): a new addition to the Indian flora and typification of two names. *Rheedea*. 32(4): 321–326.
3. DEORI, C, D.L. BIATE, D. VIJAYAN AND N. ODYUO. 2023. Notes on ex-situ conservation of *Paphiopedilum druryi* at Botanical Survey of India, Shillong – A narrow range endemic and critically endangered orchid of Western Ghats, India. *Orchid News*. Vol. 38: 13
4. GARG, A. 2023. Biological marvels of Upper Ganga Ramsar Site in Uttar Pradesh, India. *Geophytology* 53 (1): 103–108.
5. GARG, A., P. SINGH AND M. F. QUAMAR. 2023. Pollen morphology of family Thymelaeaceae Juss. in India and its taxonomic implications. *Flora*. 303: 152291 (1–24).
6. GOGOI, K., ANKUR RAJ GOGOI AND KRISHNA CHOWLU 2023. Two new additions to the orchid flora of Arunachal Pradesh, India. *Pleione*. 17 (1): 104–110.
7. KHANAL, M., M. CHETTRI, B. CHETTRI, S. K. RAI, D. KUMAR AND N. SHERPA. 2023. A new species of *Impatiens rajibgogoi* (Balsaminaceae) from Sikkim, India. *NeBio* 14(1): 1–4.
8. KOTTAIMUTHU, R. 2023. *Besleria vernoniana* a new name for *Besleria hirsutissima* C.V. Morton (Gesneriaceae). *Kew Bulletin* 78(2): 1–2.
9. KOTTAIMUTHU, R. 2023. *Helichrysum simpsonii*, a replacement name for *Helichrysum intermedium* G.Simpson (Asteraceae). *Phytotaxa* 597(2): 193–197.
10. KOTTAIMUTHU, R. 2023. Validation of the name *Lonchocarpus wendtii* M.Sousa (Fabaceae). *Phytotaxa* 594(1): 83–84.
11. KOUR A. AND S. K. SINGH. 2023. Discovery of genus *Barbilophozia* in India with extended distribution of two species of the genus from Himalayan region. *Acta Botanica Hungarica* 65(1–2): 113–119.
12. RAJASEKAR, C., M. JAYAGANESH, J. KAVITHA, R. RAJENDRAN AND R. KOTTAIMUTHU. 2023. New record of *Brachystelma rapinatianum* Britto & Bruyns (Apocynaceae: Ceropegieae) from Eastern Ghats, India. *Species* 24 (73): 1–4.
13. RATHER, S.A., A. KUMAR AND H. LIU 2023. Lectotypification and nomenclature notes of the name *Caraganaopulens* (Fabaceae, Papilionoideae) and its synonyms. *PhytoKeys* 226: 79–87.
14. SENGUPTA, R., S. S. DASH AND T. SEAL. 2023. Nutritional Assessment of Invasive Alien Plants as Bioprospecting Resources in Mizoram, an Indo-Burma Mega Biodiversity Hotspot in India. *Ind. J. Pharm. Edu. Res.*, 2023; 57(2s):s381-s390.
15. SINGH R.K. AND S. NAGARAJU 2023. Lectotypification of six names in *Aristida* (Poaceae). *Annales Botanici Fennici* 60: 89–98.
16. SRIVASTAVA, N., B. LAKSHMANUDU AND A. GARG 2023. *Juncus wallichianus* J. Gay ex Laharpe (Family: Juncaceae), an addition to the flora of Chhattisgarh, India. *Geophytology* 53(1): 99–102.