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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/2019/2059

Date: 29.12.2023

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 December, 2023

Department: Botanical Survey of India

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

Scientists of BSI reported two (2) fungal taxa as new to science, viz. *Lactarius kamengensis* I. Bera & K. Das (subg. *Lactarius*) from West Kameng district and *Lactarius madhuriensis* I. Bera & K. Das from Sangestiar Tso (Madhuri Lake), Tawang district, Arunachal Pradesh. They also reported 26 taxa of fern and fern-allies as new addition to the pteridophyte flora of Jalpaiguri district West Bengal.

In addition, BSI scientists conducted 15 field / local tours and collected 640 field nos. and completed metadata of 3091 herbarium specimens. During the month, 304680 visitors visited the official website of BSI (180743 visitors referred to BSI official website, 123937 visitors referred BSI archives and 127033 visitors visited the Indian Virtual Herbarium).

Important events / programmes organized / attended:

1. Dr. A.A. Mao, Director, BSI conducted virtual meeting of NIRANTAR Vertical 1 (Ecosystem Survey and Analysis) with the Heads of the ZSI, FSI, NMNH and NBA on 11th, 13th and 14th December, 2023 for review of the progress.
2. Dr. A.A. Mao, Director, BSI and Dr. S.S. Dash, Scientist F & Incharge, Tech. Sect. BSI, Kolkata attended the NIRANTAR meeting at the MoEF&CC, New Delhi on 20th December, 2023.
3. BSI conducted ABG Screening committee meeting at BGIR, Noida on 19th December, 2023, under the Chairmanship of Ms. Nameeta Prasad, JS, (CS-II), MoEF&CC, New Delhi. Dr. A.A. Mao, Director, BSI and Dr. S.S. Dash, Scientist F & Incharge, and Dr. U.K.L. Tiwari, Scientist D, Tech. Sect. BSI, Kolkata attended this meeting.
4. Dr. Avishek Bhattacharjee, Scientist D, BSI represented the country in the CITES 'International Expert Workshop on Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs)' held in United Nations Complex, UN Avenue in Nairobi, Kenya from 4th to 8th December, 2023 as a member of 'Indian Delegation, and actively contributed to the Working Group 10 (NDFs of Plants; Module 11) as a WG member to develop/improve the NDF guidance.
5. BSI, Industrial Section Indian Museum (ISIM), Kolkata celebrated 'International Millet Day' on 6th December 2023 with 26 UG students of Botany and 03 faculty members of South Calcutta Girls' College, Kolkata. The programme was organised to spread awareness about the importance of millet in daily life and its role in combating food scarcity throughout the world.
6. Botanical Survey of India, Sikkim Himalayan Regional Centre, Gangtok and High Altitude Western Himalayan Regional Centre, Solan celebrated International Mountain Day with the theme 'Restoring Mountain Ecosystem' on 11. 12. 2023.
7. BSI, Central National Herbarium, Howrah organized a three days' workshop on "Plants/ Fungi collection Identification, Nomenclature and Botanical Illustration" at the Department of Botany, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee University, Ranchi, Jharkhand, in association with EIACP PC-RP on Biodiversity (Flora) on 10th to 13th December, 2023.

During this month 11 research publications have been published Scientists in various International and National research Journals (Annexure I).

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 organized in different regional centres of 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: Interview for 1 post of Scientist F and 2 posts of Scientists E was conducted by the Ministry on 27th December, 2023.
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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Annexure-1

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS FOR DECEMBER, 2023: 11

PUBLISHED PAPERS: 9

1. DEY, MANAS, A. K. SONI, S.S. AHMED, J.B. BHANDARI AND V.K. RAWAT. 2023. Additions to the Pteridophyte Flora from Jalpaiguri District of Eastern Himalayan Foot Hills Region, West Bengal. *Indian Fern J.* 40(2): 39-61.
2. BANERJEE, OLY, SIDDHARTHA SINGH, SHILPI KUMARI PRASAD, ANKITA BHATTACHARJEE, TAPAN SEAL, JAYANTA MANDAL, SANGRAM SINHA, ANINDITA BANERJEE, BITHIN KUMAR MAJI AND SANDIP MUKHERJEE. 2023. Exploring aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AhR) as a target for Bisphenol-A (BPA)-induced pancreatic islet toxicity and impaired glucose homeostasis: Protective efficacy of ethanol extract of *Centella asiatica*. *Toxicology* 500, 153693.
3. RAJASEKAR, C., P.S. ANURAG AND R. KOTTAIMUTHU. 2023. Distributional note on Magnificent Grass Lily, *Iphigenia magnifica* (Colchicaceae) in Tamil Nadu. *Flora and Fauna* 29(2): 276–278.
4. MISHRA, ARUN PRATAP, NAVEEN CHANDRA, AMBER SRIVASTAVA AND SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH. 2023. An updated checklist of the vascular flora of Asan Conservation Reserve, Uttarakhand, India. *Indian J. Forestry* 46(1): 12–21.
5. HALDER, A.K., J. GHOSH, W. ARISDASON, AND D. MAITY. Typification of Indian *Gentiana* L. (Gentianaceae) revisited in Abstracts of the XXXIII Annual Conference of IAAT and International Seminar on Advances in Plant Systematics, Biogeography and Biodiversity Conservation. p. 76.
6. SINGH, R.K., A.M. REDDY AND R.K. ARIGELA. 2023 Lectotypification of the names *Shorea tumbuggaia* and *S. penicillata* (Dipterocarpaceae). *Phytotaxa* 630(2): 166–170. <https://doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.630.2.10>
7. BERA, I. AND K. DAS. 2023. Two new species of genus *Lactarius* Pers. (Russulaceae) from Arunachal Pradesh, India. *Cryptogamie Mycologie* 44(11): 147 – 158.
8. PERUMAL, P., A. ARAVINTH, S. DHANASUNDARAM, R. RAJARAM, P. SANTHANAM, M. PALANISAMY AND R. A. JAMES. 2023. Phytochemical, amino acid and fatty acid profile of selected brown and red seaweed species from Gulf of Mannar, Southeast India. *Food and Humanity* 1(2023): 1659–1669 (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foohum.2023.11.015>) (Elsevier publisher)
9. SHIL, T., A. MAJI AND K. KARTHIGEYAN 2023. Know your plant: *Ximenia Americana* L. (Sea Lemon). *EIACP Newsletter* 28(2): 3

BOOK CHAPTERS: 2

1. HARIKRISHNA, P. AND R. KUMAR, 2023. Remote Sensing and GIS Applications in the Floral Diversity Assessment of Bassi Wildlife Sanctuary in Chittorgarh District, Rajasthan, India. In: *Exploring Emerging Techniques in Plant Sciences*, edited by Sateesh Suthari, Vaagdevi Degree & PG College, Hanamkonda. ISBN: 978-93-5406-563-7, pp. 122-127.
2. HARIKRISHNA, P. AND K.V. SATISH, 2023. Spatial Patterns and Distribution of Vegetation Types and Forest Fragmentation in Bassi Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan, India. In: *Exploring Emerging Techniques in Plant Sciences*, edited by Sateesh Suthari, Vaagdevi Degree & PG College, Hanamkonda. ISBN: 978-93-5406-563-7, pp. 49-63, 2023.