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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 / 2265

Date: 01.11.2024

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 **October, 2024**.

**Department: Botanical Survey of India**

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

Scientists of BSI described a plant species *Gastrodia lohitisensis* as **new to science** from Arunachal Pradesh, India, and has been assessed as 'Endangered' according to the IUCN red list criteria. Further, Scientists of BSI conducted **20 field** / local tours and **2 HCT** and **collected 1112** field numbers. BSI prepared **metadata of 5813** herbarium specimens. During this month, **13,93,212** visitors visited the official websites of BSI (**10,95,699** visitors referred official website, **1,75,237** visitors referred archives, and **1,22,276** visitors visited Indian Virtual Herbarium).

**Important events / programs organized / attended:**

- Dr. A. A. Mao, Director, BSI, received *Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, India* (NASI), in recognition of his contributions to angiosperm taxonomy and floristic studies.
- Dr. A. A. Mao, Director, BSI and Dr. C. Murugan, Scientist-F & HoO, BSI, Hqrs., Kolkata attended the “*XLVII All India Botanical Conference on Biotic Curiosities and functional diversity across Plant Kingdom in Climate Change Regime*” organized by Indian Botanical Society and Department of Microbiology CCS, University, Meerut at CCS University, Meerut from 14 – 16 October, 2024.
- A Laboratory on *Geographical Information System* (GIS) at the Central National Herbarium (CNH), Howrah was inaugurated by Dr. A. A. Mao, Director, BSI on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024.
- The website for the 3rd International Symposium, themed “*Changing Paradigm of Indian Flora: Vision 2047*,” (<https://bsiisptebg2025.in>) to be held from February 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, to commemorate the 136<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day was launched by Dr. A.A. Mao, Director, BSI.
- Dr. S.S. Dash, Scientist-F & In-charge, Tech. Sect., BSI-Kolkata delivered a keynote lecture on the “*National Symposium Workshop on Conservation of Endemic Species of Eastern Ghats*” on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 at Andhra University, Andhra Pradesh. He also attended the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Joint Committee constituted by the Hon'ble NGT at New Delhi on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2024.
- BSI, ISIM, Kolkata organized ‘*Travelling Plants*’ exhibition in collaboration with Goethe Institute, Maxmuller Bhawan and Indian Museum, Kolkata from 06.09.2024 to 04.10.2024 at Indian Museum.
- Under ‘*Swachata hi Seva*’ campaign, BSI and all its regional centres organized free health checkup camp for employees on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024.
- BSI, Southern Regional Centre, Coimbatore observed its 69<sup>th</sup> *Foundation Day* on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024, by plantation drives and organizing various programmes.
- *A Hands-on training for Multi-Tasking Staff on Nursery Propagation Techniques* was organized at BSI, AJC Bose Indian Botanic Garden, Howrah from 14-17 October and 23-26 October 2024 to enhance the skills in various aspects of nursery management.
- *A Seven days training/workshop programme on Plant Taxonomy* was organized at BSI, ANRC, Port Blair for 30 nos. M.Sc. (Botany) students to impart technical skills on floristic study and conservation techniques on various groups of plants from 15.10.2024 onwards.
- The ‘*World Food Day*’ was celebrated at BSI, ISIM, Kolkata on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 for spreading awareness among visitors and screened a documentary on “*Food right & Balance Diet for all*”.
- BSI, ERC, Shillong participated in Science Festival 2024 on the theme “*Science and Technology for Sustainable Development*” organized by the Science Departments, under DBT Star College Scheme Synod College, Shillong and Sponsored by Department of Biotechnology under Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024.
- Vigilance Awareness Week was observed in BSI and all its regional centre from 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024 to 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2024 with the theme: “*Culture of Integrity for Nation's Prosperity*”.
- During this month **13** research papers published by BSI Scientists in International and National publications apart from participating in scientific lectures and publishing seminar abstracts. (*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 Rationalization of Autonomous Bodies: NA-

6. Information on the specific steps taken for utilization of the space technology based tools and applications in governance and development: NIL

7. Vacancy position of senior level appointments in the Ministry/ Department, including Autonomous Bodies/ PSUs: Communicated to the Ministry separately.

8. List of cases in which ACC directions have not been complied with: NIL

With regards,

Sincerely yours,

A. A. Mao  
Director, BSI

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



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**Publications for the Month of October 2024**

1. BERA, S. AND K. KARTHIGEYAN. 2024. Typification of names applying to *Miliusa velutina* (Annonaceae). *Annales Botanici Fennici* 61: 239–243.
2. CHAKRABARTY, T., A. KUMAR AND P.P. GHOSHAL. 2024. Notes on the taxonomic status and re-lectotypification of *Litsea iteodaphne* (Lauraceae). *Pl. Sci. Today* 11(4): 353–357.
3. CHOWLU K., A. RAY, A. PARIHAR AND S. KHARIA. 2024. Extended distribution of *Sapria himalayana*: A rare and interesting parasitic species in Arunachal Pradesh, India. *Indian J. Forestry* 47(1):28-32.
4. CHOWLU, KRISHNA, JAMBHEY TSERING, AJIT RAY, A.N. RAO, ABING PERTIN, S.S. DASH AND K.A.A. KABEER. 2024. *Gastrodia lohitensis* sp. nov. (Orchidaceae, Epidendroideae) from India. *Nor. Jour. Bot.* doi: 10.1111/njb.04556.
5. DAWANRI, M., G. PRASAD, D. VIJAYAN AND A. A. MAO. 2024. Assessment of genetic stability of micropropagated *Rhododendron formosum* Wall.—an endemic plant to Eastern Himalaya. In *Vitro Cellular & Developmental Biology – Plant*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11627-024-10466-5>
6. DUBEY, RASHMI, S.S. CHATTERJEE AND A. D. PANDEY. 2024. Checklist of microfungi of Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnataka, India. *Intl. J. Trop. Drylands* 25: 69-82.
7. JENA, RUPALIN, A.K. MUKHERJEE, A. KHANDUAL AND H. SWAIN. 2024. Mechanism of growth promotion and induction of defense in rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) by biopriming with bacterial endophytes isolated from wild rice. *Microbial Pathogenesis*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.micpath.2024.106966>
8. KOTTAIMUTHU, R. 2024. Revisiting the validation of the name *Magnolia champacifolia* J. E. Dandy ex F. Gagnepain, sp. nov. (Magnoliaceae). *Adansonia, sér.* 3, 46 (17): 169-171.
9. MITTAL KHUSHBOO, R. DANGI, P. INGLE AND A. H. MALIK. 2024. Molecular phylogenetic studies on *Trigonella* section *Ellipticae* (Trifolieae, Fabaceae) from India utilising nrDNA (ITS) and cpDNA (trnL–trnF & petL–psbE). *Phytotaxa*, 669 (2): 105–118.
10. SINGH, S.K., S. PATIL, S. BHATTACHARYYA AND P.GHOSH. 2024. Two new synonyms of *Lindenbergia philippensis* (Orobanchaceae). *Phytotaxa* 666(1): 88–92.
11. SOUMYA, P., S. GOSWAMI, P. SUNOJKUMAR AND S. S. DASH. 2024. (3059) Proposal to conserve the name *Justicia vahlii* Roth (Rostellularia vahlii) against *J. vahlii* F. Dietr. (Acanthaceae). *Taxon*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/tax.13275>
12. SWAIN, H., AND K. CHAKRABORTY, 2024. Science behind herbarium and its importance in recent years. *Nordic Journal of Botany* <https://doi.org/10.1111/njb.04499>.
13. YADAV, S.K., A. SANTHOSH KUMAR Y. AND M. PALANISAMY. 2024. Economic potential of the red seaweed *Porphyra* (Order Bangiales: Rhodophyta) in India. *Journal of Plant Development Sciences*, 16(9): 369-373.