Botanical Survey of India celebrated its 128th Foundation Day by organizing a seminar “Progress and Prospects in Taxonomy” on 13th and 14th February 2018 at Ashutosh Birth Centenary Hall, ISIM, Kolkata. From Cryptogamic section Dr. M.E. Hembrom, Botanist delivered a lecture on “Taxonomic study on the corticoid fungi of Rajmahal hills, Jharkhand” on the occasion of 128th BSI foundation day celebration.

In connection with the Project, “Pharmacognosy of Indian Cycads” the micro-morphological features of the pollen grains of *Cycas annaikalensis* and *C. circinalis* were studied under Light Microscope (LM) by Dr. A.B.D. Selvam, Scientist ‘D’.

For the ongoing projects such as “Studies on Wild Mushrooms of Sikkim” “Wood rotting fungi of Rajmahal hills”, “Studies on the Macrofungi of AJCIBIBG”, “Hot spring Algae of Rajgir and Mungar, Bihar”, “Revision of the family Metzgeriaceae in India” identification, drawings, photomicrographs and descriptions were made by the scientific officials of Cryptogamic section. Mr. M.E. Hembrom, Botanist prepared ArcGIS map for two species viz., *Hymenochaete* sp. 1 (Hymenochaetaceae) and *Ganoderma neojaponicum* (Ganodermataceae). Dr. Devendra Singh, Scientist ‘D’ prepared the database of 64 general liverwort specimens of CAL herbarium.

Sri Arvind Parihar, Bot. Asst. accessioned and incorporated 12 specimens including six holotypes and two paratypes. The type details are as follows:

- *Clavulina thindii* U. Singh; CAL1661 (Holotype).
- *Russula choptae* A. Ghosh & K. Das; CAL1658 (Holotype).

**Lecture delivered**


**Public service rendered**

Dr. A.B.D. Selvam pharmacognostically studied and authenticated a vegetable crude drug sample as barks of *Cinnamomum verum* J.S. Presl (Lauraceae), which was received from Techno India University, West Bengal.

**Publications**


Glimpses of 128th Foundation Day of Botanical Survey of India organized at Asutosh Birth Centenary Hall, Indian Museum, Kolkata on 13th and 14th February 2018
CENTRAL NATIONAL HERBARIUM, HOWRAH

Dr. V.P. Prasad, Scientist ‘D’ identified 40 specimens collected from Bihar by Anand Kumar.
Dr. Vinay Ranjan, Scientist ‘D’ and Sri Anant Kumar, Bot. Asst. identified 19 species collected from Neora Valley National Park, Darjeeling district, West Bengal.
Dr. Kumar Avinash Bharati, Scientist ‘B’ identified 34 species collected from Baraila Lake Salim Ali Jubba Sahni Bird Sanctuary, Vaishali District, Bihar.
Sri P.P. Ghoshal, Botanist, identified 16 species collected from Betla National park, Latehar, Jharkhand.
Dr. Rajib Gogoi, Scientist ‘D’ and Anand Kumar, Bot. Asst. identified five species of *Impatiens* L. collected from Sikkim and Darjeeling Himalayas.

Public Service rendered
Identification/authentication of seven plant samples received from different institutes/organizations.
Dr. Subir Bandyopadhyay, Scientist ‘B’ provided information on typification of the name *Saussurea laneana* W.W. Sm. to Ms. Shruti Kasan, Plant Systematics Lab., Department of Botany, University of Delhi.
Dr. K. Karthigeyan, Scientist ‘D’ provided information on Type sheet of *Tripogon jayachandranii* Arum. & Murugan as required by Ms. K. Thoiba from University of Calicut, Kerala.

Meetings/function attended
Participation of CNH personnel in the 128th foundation day celebration of BSI held at ISIM, Kolkata on 13.02.2018 and 14.02.2018. They also attended meetings and co-ordinated with other colleagues in making arrangements for this programme.
Dr. Avinash Kumar Bharati attended meeting with technical experts of CSICO, HP, Z-COM, GS computers, Vortex Company, D-link, Sea Info Tech. and Ruckus regarding establishment of Wi-Fi infrastructure in the CNH building.

Lecture delivered /programme organised/celebrated
World Wetlands Day was organized at CNH in collaboration with BSI-ENVIS RP on 02.02.2018.
National Level Workshop on “Herbarium Techniques and Plant Nomenclature” was organized at Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda College, Rahara, Kolkata in collaboration with Central National Herbarium and BSI-ENVIS RP on 22nd and 23rd February 2018.

Visitors/students
Sri Subhasis Dutta, Headmaster, B.E. College Model School, Howrah and Mr. Abhoy Naskar, Teacher, Thanamakua High School on 02.02.2018.
31 students of B.Sc. (Botany Hons.) from Mahishadal Raj College, East Midnapur for visiting General Herbarium and Ms. Monica Ray, from Lloyd Harbor, New York for seeing the Roxburgh Icones on 05.02.2018.
Dr. Makoto Kawasa, University of Tsukuba, Japan and Dr. Toshiki Osada, Research Institute of Humanity and Nature, Kyoto, Japan; 10 students of B.Sc. (Botany) from Vidyasagar Evening College, University of Calcutta; 15 students of B.Sc. (Botany Hons.) from Charuchandra College, University of Calcutta and 11 students of B.Sc. (Botany Hons.) from Dhruba Chand Halder College, Dakshin Barasat, South 24 Parganas on 06.02.2018.
29 students of B.Sc. (Botany Hons.) from Egra Sarada Shashibhusan College, Purba Midnapur for visiting General Herbarium on 07.02.2018.
Sri Sandip K. Gavade from Kolhapur University from 7th to 20th February, 2018.
Dr. Avinash R. Gholave from Walchand Art and Science College, Sholapur and Sri Rohit Nivas Mane, from Shivaji University, Kolhapur for consulting General and Type Herbarium II from 5th to 9th February 2018.
Sandra Bannutha, Neisseng on 09.02.2018.
Glimpses of World Wetlands Day organized at Central National Herbarium on 02.02.2018
39 students of B.Sc. (Botany Hons.) from Dinabandhu Andrews College, Garia, Kolkata; 30 students of B.Sc. (Botany Hons.) from Netaji Nagar College for Women, Kolkata on 08.02.2018.

11 students of B.Sc. (Botany Hons.) from Vivekananda College for Women, Kolkata; 17 students of B.Sc. (Botany Hons.) from Panihati Mahavidyalaya, Sodepur and Ms. Sumitra Maitra Chaudhury along with 3 teachers from Sheoraphuli Bibhas Ch. Daw Girls’ High School on 09.02.2018.

14 students of B.Sc. (Botany Hons.) from Raghunathpur College, Purulia; 42 students of B.Sc. (Botany Hons. and General ) from Lady Brabourne College, Kolkata and Dr. Sandra Knapp from Natural History Museum, London on 15.02.2018.

23 students of B.Sc. (Botany Hons. and General) from Govt. General Degree College, Singur on 16.02.2018 on educational tour.

45 students of B.Sc. (Botany Hons. and General) from Bidhannagar College, Salt lake and 14 students of B.Sc. (Botany Hons.) from Taki Govt. College, Hasnabad on 19.02.2018 on educational tour.

11 students of B.Sc. (Botany Hons.) from R.B.C. College, Naihati on 20.02.2018 on educational tour.

15 students of B.Sc. (Botany Hons.) from Narasimha Dutta College, Howrah (C.U.) and 21 students of Class IX Standard from Singur Mahamaya High School on 21.02.2018 on educational tour.

11 students of B.Sc. (Botany Hons.) from APC College, New Barrackpur and Mr. Sanjay Kumar Roy and his team on 23.02.2018.

46 students of B.Sc. (Botany Hons. and General) from Fakir Chand College, Diamond Harbour on 27.02.2018 on educational tour.

63 Forest Range Officer Trainees from Telangana State Forest Academy, Hyderabad for getting general idea about Herbarium and also for seeing Roxburgh icons on 28.02.2018.

Publications


– Dr. P.V. Prasanna
Scientist ‘F’ & HoO
The botanical paintings by Roxburgh are being interpreted with updated nomenclature. Under this project, two members of Poaceae - *Andropogon pertusus* (L.) Willd.; *A. pumilus* Roxb. were interpreted and 12 members have been described viz., *Cymbopogon schoenanthus* (L.) Spreng., *Bothriochloa pertusa* (L.) A. Camus, *Bothriochloa ischaemum* (L.) Keng, *Chrysopogon cocculus*atus (Retz.) Trin., *Zoysia matrella* (L.) Merr., *Eragrostis cilariis* (L.) R. Br., *E. gangetica* (Roxb.) Steud., *E. unioloides* (Retz.) Nees ex Steud., *E. viscosa* (Retz.) Trin., *Miscanthus fuscus* (Roxb.) Benth., *Eleusine indica* (L.) Gaertn. and *Ischaemum aristatum* L. From Ebenaceae *Diospyros malabarica* (Desr.) Kostel. has been described.

**Database of Herbarium Specimens**
As a part of preparing a database of herbarium specimens at BSIS, 238 numbers of Dicot herbarium specimens were listed and documented.

**Updating of nomenclature of digitized Herbarium Specimens at BSIS**
625 numbers of Digitized Herbarium specimens were updated with valid botanical names, basionsyms/synonyms.

**Public service rendered**
Under the Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, four samples received from West Bengal Police were identified.

**Awareness programme, Workshop, Seminar organized/attended**
The 128th Foundation Day of Botanical Survey of India and Seminar on “Progress and Prospects in Plant Taxonomy” held at ABC Hall, Indian Museum, Kolkata during February 13-14, 2018. All the scientists and scientific staff from ISIM and CNH, AJCBIBG, CBL, HQ actively participated and assisted in organizing this two-day programme.

Dr. Sandra Knapp, Natural History Museum, London delivered the keynote address on “Past, Present and Future of Floristics - in relevance on Flora of modern world”. Dr. Knapp along with her colleague Ms. Ranee Om Prakash, Natural History Museum, London actively participated on various discussions during the Seminar and gave a view on present status of Botanical Nomenclature. The one day scientific seminar was ended with presentation of 19 speakers of BSI research students on various disciplines on Botany with the present trend of research in BSI. The retired scientists of BSI, invited guests and researchers of Botany from various universities of West Bengal participated in the event. The retired scientists of BSI were felicitated on the occasion of 128th Foundation Day.
Visitors/students

A group of 38 students along with 5 teachers from Bagbazar Multipurpose Girl’s School, Kolkata visited Botanical galleries (2nd & 3rd floor) on 10.02.2018 as per Environmental Education Awareness Programme and attended a lecture on “Biodiversity and Uses of Medicinal Plants in India” delivered by Dr. P.R. Sur, Retired Botanist, BSI. Dr. (Ms.) K. Pagag, Ms. Sudeshna Datta, Sri B.C. Dey and Sri S.K. Sharma guided the school students during their visit of botanical galleries.

Dr. G. Wolf, Professor of History, University of Sussex, UK observing herbarium specimens at BSIS, ISIM

Dr. G. Wolf, Professor of History, University of Sussex, UK observing herbarium specimens at BSIS, ISIM

Dr. Sandra Knapp and Ms. Ranee Om Prakash, NHM, London visiting ISIM galleries on 15.02.2018

Dr. Sandra Knapp and Ms. Ranee Om Prakash, NHM, London visited Botanical Galleries and “BSIS” herbarium on 15.02.2018 and consulted herbarium specimens of Solanum spp. (Solanaceae).

– Dr. Manas Bhaumik
Scientist ‘D’ & HoO
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR REGIONAL CENTRE, PORT BLAIR

Herbarium sheets Scanned: 220 numbers of Arecaaceae, Cycadaceae, Musaceae and Zingiberaceae.
Herbarium details computerized in Excel format: 120 herbarium specimens of families Arecaceae were fed in the computer in a prescribed format.

World Wetlands Day – 2018
More than 80 participants along with students from Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1, Carmal School and Government Senior Secondary School, Haddo of Port Blair participated in the competition. Teachers of the schools, Officers and staff members of this centre and local people also participated.

Drawing competition during the celebration of World Wetlands Day, February-2018 at ANRC, BSI

Dr. Lal Ji Singh delivering lecture during Workshop for Foresters at Forest Training Institute, South Andaman

Dr. Lal Ji Singh as a guest speaker during 1st Dr. T.C. Khatri Memorial Lecture-2018 at JNRM, Port Blair

Lectures delivered/function/seminar attended
Dr. Lal Ji Singh, Scientist ‘D’ & HoO delivered an invited lecture on Endemic Plant diversity of Andaman and Nicobar Islands for 1st Dr. T.C. Khatri Memorial Lecture-2018 at JNRM, Port Blair, South Andaman on 12.02.2018.
Dr. Singh delivered an invited lecture on Endemic Plant diversity of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and its conservation during one-week Refresher Course for Foresters of the Department of Environment and Forests, Andaman and Nicobar Islands at Forest Training Institute, South Andaman on 24.02.2018.
Special lecture on “Diversity of Family Solanaceae” by Dr. Sandra Knapp, Merit Researcher and Head of Algae, Fungi and Plants (AFP) Division Natural History Museum, London, U.K. was conducted on 21.02.2018 at ANRC, BSI, Port Blair.

Dr. Sandra Knapp, Natural History Museum, London, U.K. delivering lecture on “Diversity of family Solanaceae” at BSI, ANRC on 21.02.2018
Dr. Singh attended the passing out ceremony of Refresher Course for Foresters as a Chief Guest at the Forest Training Research Institute, South Andaman on 24.02.2018.

Dr. Singh attended Ph.D. thesis viva voce examination on “Distribution, Diversity and Reproductive Biology of Resident Tide Pool Ornamental Fishes along the Coast of South Andaman, Andaman Sea, India” at Pondicherry University, Brookshabad Campus, Port Blair on 28.02.2018.

**Visitors/students**

Teachers and Students of Kendriya Vidyalay No. 1; Carmal School, Port Blair and Govt. Senior Secondary School, Port Blair visited herbarium and library on 02.02.2018.

Ms. D. Puspha Kumari, Assistant Professor and Ms. K. Jyothsna, Assistant Professor, PG Department of Plant Science, JNRM, Port Blair visited library and herbarium on 08.02.2018.

Sri Arun Singh, Secretary, Andaman Avian Club, Port Blair, along with seven team members visited the garden on 16.02.2018.

Prof. Jayant Kumar Mishra, Dept. of Ocean Studies and Marine Biology, Pondicherry University, Brookshabad Campus, Port Blair visited office on 16.02.2018.


Sri Joju P. Alappatt, Director, Forest Training Institute, South Andaman along with 24 trainees and 3 trainers visited garden on 21.02.2018.

Professors, faculty members and students of Department of Plant Science, JNRM, Port Blair visited library and herbarium on 21.02.2018.

Dr. Depanshu Singh, Professor and Dr. E. Muthu Kumaran, Professor and NSS, Co-ordinator, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Institute of Technology, Port Blair visited garden on 26.02.2018.

Dr. Anil Kr. Dubey, Scientist, ZSI, Port Blair visited library on 28.02.2018.

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Dr. Sandra Knapp and Ms. Ranee Om Prakash, Natural History Museum, London during their visit to ANRC, BSI

Dr. Lal Ji Singh
Scientist ‘D’ & HoO
ARID ZONE REGIONAL CENTRE, JODHPUR

In association with Flora of Navsari District, Gujarat, Dr. Ramesh Kumar, Scientist ‘C’ and Sri Vinod Maina, Scientist ‘D’ conducted one field tour during 2nd to 15th February 2018 and collected specimens of 201 field numbers.

Seasonal ornamental flowering plants in the campus of AZRC, BSI, Jodhpur

Ephedra foliata flowering in the Botanical Garden, AZRC, BSI, Jodhpur

Herbarium specimen identification
127 Field numbers has been identified during the period under report.

Public service rendered
Identified six plants, viz., Caralluma adscendens var. fimbriata (Wall.) Grav. & Mayur, Withania somnifera (L.) Dunat and Cyperus rotundus L. brought by Sri Jeetesh Dave, CVAS, Udaipur and Ziziphus nummularia (Burm.f.) Wight & Arn., Cissus quadrangularis L.; Lantana camara L. brought by Ms. Bhawna Rajpurohit, Research Scholar, G.D. Memorial College of Pharmacy, Jodhpur.

Workshop attended/lecture delivered
Sri Vinod Maina attended Botany Fest-2018, chaired the inaugural secession and judged the various competitions at National workshop on “Biodiversity and Conservation” in Navsari Agriculture University, Waghai organized by Dept. of Botany, M.S. University, Baroda and Gujarat Ecological commission on 09.02.2018. Sri Vinod Maina also delivered a lecture on “Plants used for making Musical instruments” and Dr. Ramesh Kumar, Scientist ‘C’ delivered a lecture on “Plant diversity and Conservation”.

GSDP: Advance Course for Para-taxonomists
GSDP Advanced course Parataxonomist examination was conducted by this office on 24.02.2018. Dr. C.S. Purohit, Scientist ‘B’ worked as a internal examiner; Dr. P. HariKrishna, Bot. Asst., & Sri Ramesh Kumar, Bot. Asst. worked as invigilators.

CENTRAL REGIONAL CENTRE, ALLAHABAD

A total of 56 species were identified for ‘Floristic diversity of ‘Bhoj Ramsar Site’ in Madhya Pradesh.
A total of 266 specimens belongs to 105 species were identified under ‘Floristic diversity of Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary, Lakhimpur Kheri, U.P.’
Completed updation of nomenclature, consequential changes in key to genera and editing of families Plantaginaceae, Nyctagenaceae, Amaranthaceae, Chenopodiaceae, Basellaceae, Phytolaccaceae, Polygonaceae, Aristolochiaceae and Piperaceae for Flora of Uttar Pradesh, Vol. –II.
Taxonomic descriptions of 17 species were completed for the project ‘Trees of Allahabad city and its Environs’.
Completed Cytological investigations of *Cassia fistula* L. for ‘Cytotaxonomical studies of selected taxa of Indian subtribe Cassiinae’.


A total of 101 specimens were identified in connection with the project, ‘Identification of old unidentified specimens of BSA’.

**Symposia/seminars/workshop attended**

Dr. A.N. Shukla, Scientist ‘B’ attended a National Symposium on ‘Pteridological studies in India: Perspective and Modern approaches in relation to environment & Climate Change’ conducted at Botanical Survey of India, APRC, Itanagar, on 22nd to 23rd February 2018.

Sri Vineet Singh, Bot. Asst. attended a two days National Seminar on ‘Diversity and Utilization of Tropical Plants’ and also presented a paper, ‘Economically valuable Non-Timber Forest Products of PAWS and Adjacent Tikri forest area, Gonda, Uttar Pradesh’ organized by Department of Botany, Deendayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur during 22nd and 23rd February 2018.

Dr. Nitisha Srivastava attended a National workshop on ‘Recent technologies for food security and rural development’ (19th to 25th February 2018) organized by SBSRD, Allahabad and K.A.P.G. College, Allahabad in collaboration with Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata and ESW Society, U.P. Chapter, and delivered a lecture on “Nanotechnology for Agricultural improvement”.


**Identification services rendered**

Dr. Nitisha Srivastava authenticated one plant specimen received from Department of Botany, Govt. N.P.G. College of Sciences, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

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**World Wetland Day —2018**

World Wetland Day was celebrated on 02.02.2018, wherein over 70 UG students of ISD College participated. Two lectures were delivered by Dr. H.P. Pandey, Head Botany Department, ISD College and Dr. Arti Garg in the programme. All Scientific and technical staff of BSI, CRC, Allahabad actively participated in this celebration.

**GSDP: Advance Course for Para-taxonomists**

Four invited lectures were organized for GSDP Trainees, on Wetlands and their importance, Wetland Avifauna, Gymnosperms and Rural Technology and entrepreneurship delivered respectively by Dr. H.P. Pandey, Dr. A.K. Verma, Prof. D.R. Misra and Dr. Anand Pandey of University of Allahabad.
Besides this Dr. G.P. Sinha delivered lectures on Collection, preservation, broad categorisation and identification of lichens; Dr. Sheo Kumar, Scientist E on GIS; Dr. Arti Garg on Plant diversity in Hotspots, IUCN categories and phytogeography; Dr. A.N. Shukla on Botanic Gardens; Dr. A.K. Verma on in situ & ex situ conservation.; Sri Vineet Kumar Singh, Bot. Asst. on Eco-restoration of Natural Habitats; Dr. Nitisha Srivastava on Detail introductory information about the topic Gathering pertinent information (Library/Internet) and Dr. Pushpi Singh, N-PDF on Collection and identification of different plant groups.

Two Field tours were conducted by Dr. Arti Garg and Dr. Pushpi Singh to Samsaspur Bird Sanctuary and Indira Gandhi Botanical Garden in Raebareily, U.P. for plant collection methodology and in-situ, ex-situ conservation on 20.02.2018 and by Sri Vineet Kumar Singh to Shankargarh and adjoining areas for site visit of degraded habitats and eco-restored site of silica sand and stone mining on 15.02.2018 for GSDP Trainees.

**Publication**

— Dr. G.P. Sinha
Scientist ‘E’ & HoO

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**DECCAN REGIONAL CENTRE, HYDERABAD**

Dr. G. Swarnalatha identified five macro lichen specimens for the project, “Inventory of Macrolichen diversity of Odisha State”

**Digitisation of Herbarium specimens**

80 herbarium sheets were scanned belonging to various families at BSID.

**Public service rendered**

Dr. J. Swamy, provided service to Ms. K. Thoiba, Dept. of Botany, Calicut University, Kerala on 08.02.2018. Dr. G. Swarnalatha and Dr. J. Swamy explained about Botanical Survey of India, Herbarium and Museum to 20 students and staff from T.C. College, Baramati, Maharashtra on 08.02.2018 and 50 students and staff from Satish Pradhan Dhyanasadhana College, Thane, Maharashtra on 15 02.2018.

Dr. J. Swamy identified nine specimens for various universities, institutions and colleges viz., *Woodfordia fruticosa*, *Oxalis corniculata*, *Macroptilium atropurpureum* (02), *Digera muricata*, *Bryophyllum pinnatum*, *Abelmoschus esculentus*, *Moringa oleifera* and *Xanthium strumarium*. 
Meeting/programme attended/lecture delivered


Dr. L. Rasingam, Scientist ‘D’ & HoO attended Departmental Direct Recruitment Committee meeting at Institute of Forest Biodiversity, Dulapally to select Driver, Steno and LDC on 14.02.2018.

Dr. Rasingam delivered a keynote address on recent trends in Plant Taxonomy at State level workshop on ‘Herbarium- Its role and significance in Plant Taxonomy’ held at Government Degree & PG College, Siddipet, Telangana on 21.02.2018.

Dr. G. Swarnalatha delivered a lecture on “Introduction to the Lichenized Fungi” at State level workshop on ‘Herbarium- Its role and significance in Plant Taxonomy’ held at Government Degree & PG College, Siddipet, Telangana on 21.02.2018.

Dr. J. Swamy and Sri. S. Nagaraju delivered a lecture on the topic, ‘Herbarium- Its Role & Significance in Plant Taxonomy’ and “General Grass Morphology” respectively in one day State level workshop on Herbarium Techniques – Role and Significance in Plant Taxonomy organized by Govt. Degree & PG College, Siddipet, Telangana on 21.02.2018.

World Wetland Day—2018

World wetland day—2018 was celebrated on 02.02.2018 in collaboration with Fresh Water Biology Regional Center, Zoological Survey of India. A total of 30 School students from Gowtham Model School, Attapur, New Brilliant High School, Hyderabad, Delhi School of Excellence, Hyderguda and Janapriya School, Hyderguda were participated.

Visitors/students

20 students and one faculty members of T.C. College, Baramati, Maharashtra visited this centre on 08.02.2018.

50 students and four faculty members from Satish Pradhan Dhyanasadhana College, Thane, Maharashtra visited this centre on 15.02.2018.

– Dr. L. Rasingam
Scientist ‘D’ & HoO
During this period 27 species identified and described 20 species for Flora of West and South-West Khasi hills district, Meghalaya with reference to the sacred groves by Dr. Chaya Deori, Scientist ‘D’ and Dr. S.R. Talukdar, Bot. Asst., Flora of Eastern Nagaland by Dr. N. Odyuo, Scientist ‘D’ and Dr. R. Daimary, Bot. Asst. and Flora of Nagaland (Vol. I & 2) by Dr. A.A. Mao, Scientist ‘F’, Dr. N. Odyuo, Scientist ‘D’, and Dr. D.K. Roy, Bot. Asst.


Public service rendered
Identified five samples of specimens received from various institutions.

Meeting/training attended
Dr. A.A. Mao, Scientist ‘F’ attended 7th Training Programme on “Science, Technology and Emerging Trends in Governance” during 12th to 16th February 2018 sponsored by Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, New Delhi and Organised by Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi.

Visitors/students
Six lecturer, 38 students, one N-PDF and five other visitors from various Institutions, Colleges and Universities visited the Centre.

Publications

— Dr. A.A. Mao
Scientist ‘F’ & HoO


Digitization of Herbarium specimens
Scanned and digitized 170 specimens of the family Rubiaceae and of Pteridophytes.
Public services rendered
Identified 24 species for visitors from different institutes/Universities.

Meetings/workshop attended
Dr. Kumar Ambrish, Scientist ‘D’ & HoO attended Jammu and Kashmir Biodiversity Board meeting on 15.02.2018 for the finalization of the list of RET plants for the state.
Dr. Kumar Ambrish attended a Consultative workshop on India’s Sixth National Report to CBD and progress achieved on Biodiversity Targets-6, organized by WII, Dehradun and UNDP, New Delhi and delivered a PPT on Status and Trends of Floral Diversity in India on dated 19.02.2018 at WII, Dehradun.
Dr. Kumar Ambrish attended RAC meeting of Forest Ecology as one of the Executive members.

World Wetland Day—2018
World wet land day was celebrated by centre on 02.2.2018 and talks were delivered regarding conservation of wet lands.

Visitors/students
Dr. Sandra Knapp, Ms. Rani Prakash from Natural History Museum, London and Dr. Alexander Sukharukhov from Moscow visited the centre.
Dr. Anandi Subramanian, Sr. Econ. Advisor, MoEF & CC and Sri Kumar Rajnish, National Programme Coordinator, ENVIS Secretariat, MoEF & CC, New Delhi visited the centre on 5th February, 2018 to interact with GSDP trainees (Advance course- Para-taxonomists) and for the evaluation of GSDP course.
A batch of 20 M.Sc. students of RIMT University Chandigarh visited the centre.

— Dr. Kumar Ambrish
Scientist ‘D’ & HoO
Visit of Dr. Anandi Subramanian, Sr. Econ. Advisor, MoEF & CC and Sri Kumar Rajnish, National Programme Coordinator, ENVIS Secretariat, MoEF & CC, New Delhi at NRC, BSI, Dehradun on 5th February, 2018
Dr. C. Murugan, Scientist ‘D’ and Dr. S. Arumugam, Bot. Asst. conducted a botanical exploration to Meghamalai WLS, Tamil Nadu during 5th to 14th February 2018 and vouched specimens of 186 field numbers. They also identified 60 field numbers from the previous collections.

**Chondria armata**

**Cissampelopsis calcadensis**

Panoramic view of Meghamalai WLS, Tamil Nadu

Dr. M. Palanisamy, Scientist ‘D’ and Dr. S. K. Yadav, Bot. Asst. conducted a survey on marine macro algae cum herbarium consultation to Goa coast during 12th to 25th February, 2018 and vouched specimens of 324 field numbers of seaweeds and preserved 65 field numbers of seaweeds into wet forms. Also consulted the herbarium and library of the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa and referred 105 field numbers of herbarium specimens.

**Caulerpa sertularioides**

**Herbarium Identification**

Dr. K.A.A. Kabeer, Scientist ‘D’ and Sri A. Ravi Kiran, Bot. Asst. completed identification for 17 field numbers in connection with Kodaikanal WLS, Tamil Nadu. Dr. J.H. Franklin Benjamin, Scientist ‘C’ and Sri Rakesh G. Vadhyar, Bot. Asst. completed identification for 14 field numbers pertaining to Kanniyakumari WLS, Tamil Nadu.

Dr. R. Manikandan, Scientist ‘D’ completed identification for 50 field numbers pertaining to North Cauvery WLS, Tamil Nadu. In connection with documentation of Phytodiversity, Dr. C. Murugan and Dr. S. Arumugam completed identification for 10 field numbers of Cyperaceae of Tamil Nadu. Dr. R. Manikandan, Sri R.K. Singh, Botanist and Smt. R. Mehala Devi, Sr. Pres. Asst. updated nomenclatural citations, distribution data and description of 2 taxa of the family Caprifoliaceae for Flora of Kerala.

**Ex-situ conservation**

Dr. S. Kaliamoorthy, Scientist ‘D’, Dr. M.Y. Kamble, Scientist ‘D’ and his team introduced four species of *Curcuma* and multiplied 130 samples, belonging to 15 species and 90 numbers of *Bentinckia condapanna*, developed 10 seedlings, 83 cuttings of 7 taxa and recorded the phenological data of 28 plants, including 19 orchids and 9 other angiosperms at the National Orchidarium and Experimental Gardens (NOEG), Yercaud.
**Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)**
Drs. S. Kaliamoorthy and T.S. Saravanan fixed the flowers of 11 orchid species into fixative agents for SEM study.

**Public service rendered**
Identified 100 plant species for the students / research scholars of various institutions.

Dr. M.Y. Kamble delivered lecture on Plant conservation methods’ to the 61 students of B. Sc. Botany, Bishop Heber College, Trichy on 02.02.2018.

Dr. S.K. Yadav delivered a lecture on “Seaweed diversity and Methodology for seaweed Herbarium” to 30 UG & PG students of Alva’s College, Moodbidri, Karnataka on 07.02.2018.

Dr. M.Y. Kamble participated in the 21st Punjab Science Congress with theme “Scientific Advances for Inclusive Development and Environmental Protection” Organized by Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, held on 7th-9th February 2018 and made Poster presentation on the research titled, “Ethnopharmacological Plants Used in Liver Disorders by Native Tribes of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India: A Review” by Mane Santosh, Kolhe Rasika, Kamble Mayur and Tiwari, R.K.

Dr. S. Kaliamoorthy and Ananthalakshmi explained about BSI, Museum and MH Collections and about nomenclatural types to 5 batches of students from Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Ms. R. Mehala Devi and Ms. M. Ananthalakshmi explained activities of BSI to 25 M.Sc Students from Annamalai University, Chithambaram, Tamil Nadu.

**Meetings/seminar attended**
All the scientific officials of the centre attended an special lecture on ‘Basic Concept of GIS’ delivered by Sri Natarajan Palani, IFGTB, Coimbatore on 07.02.2018 at SRC, BSI, Coimbatore.

Dr. M.Y. Kamble delivered a lecture on Plant conservation methods’ to the 61 students of B. Sc. Botany, Bishop Heber College, Trichy on 02.02.2018.

Dr. M. Palanisamy delivered a lecture on “Perspectives of Indian Seaweed Diversity” at Dr. N.G.P College of Arts & Science, on 07.02.2018.

Dr. K. Althaf Ahamed Kabeer delivered a lead lecture on “Diversity and Taxonomy of Grasses” in IFGTB, Coimbatore on 08.02.2018.

Dr. S. Kaliamoorthy delivered a lecture on “Plant Biodiversity and Conservation - with a special note on orchids” at the Department of Biotechnology, Selvam College of Arts & Science, Namakkal, on 09.02.2018

Dr. R. Manikandan attended farmer’s day celebration at TNAU, Coimbatore on 10.02.2018.

**Green Skill Development Program (GSDP)**
Under the Green Skill Development Program (GSDP), various classes and plant exploration were undertaken under the coordination of Dr. R. Manikandan and Dr. J.H. Franklin Benjamin. Dr. S.K. Yadav and Ananthalakshmi also undertaken a local field trip with the students to Rice Breeding Station, Dept. of Rice, TNAU, Coimbatore on 01.02.2018. Dr. P. Jayaprakash, Prof., given a lecture and made necessary arrangements in Museum and Rice field for field exposure to the students; Dr. S. Arumugam lectured on (1) Protected areas, (2) In-situ conservation, Germplasam conservation institutes of India and (3) Herbarium methodology & incorporation of specimens; Ms. R. Mehala Devi and Ms. M. Ananthalakshmi explained about Local Native species, Non-Native species & Control measures, National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and NBR.

**Drawings/paintings made**
Mr. R. Suresh, Artist Gr 1, made 20 illustrations/charts/boards whereas Mr. A.T. Durgadas, Artist, is involved in oil painting on a project based on “Endangered species of Western Ghats”.

**Visitors/students**
During this month, 47 scientific personnel/officials/students/scholars visited the museum, herbarium and library of this regional centre whereas 1110 persons in 64 parties visited the NOEG, Yercaud.

— Dr. C. Murugan
Scientist ‘D’ & HoO
Dr. A. Benniamin, Scientist ‘D’ made one field tour to unexplored areas of Karnataka during 29th January to 12th February for the project “Ferns of Karnataka”.

Dr. Priyanka Ingle, Scientist ‘B’ along with Ms. Madhuri Pawar, Pres. Asst. conducted one field tour from 10th to 24th February 2018 for the project, “Floristic diversity of Wan Wildlife Sanctuary, Maharashtra”.

Sri D. Jesubalan, Bot. Asst. conducted one field tour from 27th January to 10th February 2018 for the project, “Pteridophytic flora of Pushpagiri Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnataka with 10% periphery”.

Specimen Identification

Dr. J.S. Jalal, Scientist ‘D’ identified eight orchid species and prepared description for the project, “An Assessment of Orchid diversity of Central Western Ghats: Goa”.

Dr. C.R. Jadhav, Botanist identified specimens of 20 field numbers for the project, “Floristic survey of Someshwara Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnataka”.

Ms. A.M. Neelima made SEM studies of capsules and pollinia of two orchids for the project, “Seed morphology and cyto-taxonomy of some selected orchids of Northern Western Ghats”.

Dr. A. Benniamin identified seven species for the project, “Ferns of Karnataka”.

Sri D. Jesubalan identified specimens of four field numbers for the project, “Pteridophytic flora of Pushpagiri Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnataka with 10% periphery”.

Sri D. Tripathi, Senior Project Fellow identified four species for the project, “Pteridophyte flora of Kudremukh National Park, Karnataka”.

Dr. Rashmi Dubey, Scientist ‘D’ processed 26 samples including dry and foliicolous and prepared 75 slides for the project, “Taxonomic Studies of Micro fungi of Sanjay Gandhi National Park along with its 10% peripheral area”.

Ms. Shreya Sengupta, Senior Project Fellow identified 11 micro fungi under the project, “Microfungi of Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple wildlife Sanctuary, Karnataka”.

Public service rendered

During this month five plant specimens identified and issued authentication certificates to students from B. Pharm, M. Pharm. colleges, Ph.D. and P.G. students from different institutions.

Workshop attended

Dr. A. Benniamin, Sri Jesubalan and Sri Devendra Tripathi has attended and presented paper on National Symposium on Pteridological Studies in India: Perspectives and Modern Approaches in Relation to Environment and Climate Change 2018 at APRC, BSI, Itanagar on 22nd and 23rd February 2018.

World Wetland Day 2018

World Wetlands Day was organized at WRC, Pune on 2nd February 2018 with the theme "Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future". The students from Savithribhai Phule Pune University and trainee students of GSDP – Parataxonomist course participated in the programme as well as in the drawing competition held.

Visitors

A team of participants of the Pune Heritage Festival visited WRC on 14.02.2018 as part of the INTACH activity on Pune Heritage Festival 2018, during which the participants visited the Heritage building (Moti Mansion) in WRC.
Celebration of World Wetland Day at WRC, BSI, Pune

Green Skill Development Programme
For the GSDP Advanced Course on “Parataxonomist” the trainee students have conducted one field tour to Lonavala and Ambey Valley for GRIDS study on 10.02.2018.
Conducted one field tour to Junnar-Durgawadi area on 16.02.2018 to study the sacred groves.
Conducted a field tour to Botanical Garden Mahabaleshwar and its surrounding area on 24.02.2018 to study the endemic plants of the micro-endemic centre of Western Ghats.

Publications

— Dr. P. Lakshminarasimhan
Scientist ‘E’ & HoO