

Editorial

It is with great pleasure we bring out this issue of *Mapana-Journal of Sciences*. This issue focuses on Biological Sciences with three articles and a book review from different fields.

The first article of this issue is centered on *Bacopamonnieri* also referred to as Brahmi or Jal Brahmi. Bacoside A is a major chemical entity shown to be responsible for memory facilitating action of Brahmi. Different types of stress have been implicated in secondary metabolite production and the authors of this article have assessed the role of metal stress on shoot regeneration, biomass accumulation and production of bacoside A from regenerated shoots of *Bacopamonnieri* leaf explants.

In the second article, which focuses on Rice (*Oryzasativa* L), the staple food of more than half of the population of the world, the authors have conducted a study on the status of insectpests and natural enemies of direct-seeded rice (DSR) in comparison with puddled transplanted rice (PTR). In their work, they have extensively studied the levels of various biochemical parameters and also the status of the different pest and the correlation analysis of the same with biochemical parameters.

The third article, the authors have studied the mangroves in the new industrial area of Puthuvypeen, Kerala. Mangroves and Mangrove forests were and still an important part of our biodiversity. In India, it is estimated that there is a 40% decline in the mangroves and it is still worse in Kerala as it has more than 90% decline in mangroves. Hence it is hightime that we realise the importance and potential of the plant. In the paper, the author expresses the concern to promote the recovery of mangroves in Kerala, especially in Puthuvypeen.

The fourth article of this issue, *Medicine to Prevent the Effects of Age*, presents a list of traditional medicinal plants of India, generally used in Ayurveda, and their use in the treatment of age related issues.

Apart from the interesting articles, we have also included an informative book review by Dr Suma. The importance and relevance of the book titled 'Fundamentals of Environmental

Studies' by M Basu and S Xavier has been explained in detail through a commendable analysis.

We would like to reiterate that we are very glad to present to you an issue of Mapana with information on unique and interesting research that is happening in different parts of the country.

We thank all the authors and reviewers for their contribution and all the readers for their support and constructive criticism. We look forward to your continued support and cooperation and also invite you all to publish your valued research outcomes in the various issues of Mapana-*Journal of Sciences*.

Mapana is published both in print and electronic media. The recent intense publicity activities have also helped to improve the journal's visibility. Mapana has wide circulation across many of the major research centres and universities in the country.

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Issue Editors