

INDIAN JOURNAL OF NATURAL SCIENCES (IJONS)
BIMONTHLY INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

Editor-in-Chief
Dr.S.Vijikumar

Published by
TAMILNADU SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ORGANISATION
ARIMALAM – 622 201, PUDUKKOTTAI, TAMIL NADU INDIA

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Indian Journal of Natural Sciences (IJONS)

Volume II		October 2011
CODEN: IJONS (8) (2011)	Issue 8	ISSN: 0976 - 0997

S. No	CONTENTS	Page No
	Editorial	
1	Production and Utilization of Marine Copepods as Live feed for Larval Rearing of Tiger Shrimp <i>Penaeus monodon</i> with Special Emphasis on Astaxanthin Enhancement - Ananthi P, P. Santhanam, R. Nandakumar, S. Ananth, K. Jothiraj, S. Dinesh Kumar, B. Balaji Prasath and T. Jayalakshmi	494-503
2	Effect of Growth Regulators on Yield and Quality in Phalsa (<i>Grewia Sub-Inaequalis</i> Dc)- Abhijit Debnath, K Vanajalatha , Umarfarooque Momin Adamsab.M.Patel and Hina Kousar	504-510
3	Anthropogenic Impacts on Hydrochemical Characteristics of River Gomti in Lucknow City,India- Rajesh B , Dhanakumar S and Mohanraj R	511-517
4	Biological Synthesis of Nanoparticles by using Crabshell (<i>Scylla serrata</i>) and Exploration of their Medicinal Properties - Sudeep jain and kasinathan	518-524
5	Removal of Mercury from Synthetic Effluent using Activated Rice Husk Carbon and Activated Carbon as an Adsorbents - Suman Pawar, Abdul Samad Kamdod, Sirajuddin.M.Horaginamani , M.Ravichandran and Krishna Gurlhosur	525-531
6	An Investigation on Heavy Metals Accumulation in Water, Sediment and Small Marine Food Chain (Plankton And Fish) from Coromandel Coast, Southeast Coast of India- V. Chinnaraja , P. Santhanam , B. Balaji Prasath , S. Dinesh Kumar and K. Jothiraj	532-540
7	Design and Development of Soil Moisture Deficit Based Drip Automation System- Umarfarooque Momin, D.Tamilmani, M.V.Ranghaswami , K.V.Laven, Manoj P Samuel and Prasad .S.Kulkarni	541-546
8	Selection of the Best Enzyme for the Production of Detergents Krishna Gurlhosur , Abdul Samad Kamdod , Sirajuddin M Hraginamani , M .Ravichandran and Suman Pawar	547-553
9	Solid Waste Management in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu,India Rajesh B , T.B.V. Krishna Reddy , Santhosh M.D	554-567
10	Species Diversity of Avenue Trees in the Coimbatore City, TamilNadu, South India. Mary Josephine R and Ramakrishnan B	568-579
11	Influence of Drip Irrigation Methods on Growth and Yield of Onion at Raichur Region Mallikarjun Reddy, M. S. Ayyanagowdar , M. Nemichandrappa, Umarfarooque Momin , Sirajuddin. M. Horaginamani and M. Ravichandran	580-587
12	Screening of Antimicrobial Activity of Selected Medicinal Plants <i>Cassia surattensis</i> Burm.f and <i>Rhinacanthus nasutus</i> (L) Kure H. Syed Jahangir and R. Nazeerullah	588-599
13	Instruction to Author	599-603

Editorial

Dear Readers...

International Year of Forests (IYF2011) Greetings

Forests contain some of our planet's most vibrant ecosystems, displaying a wondrous variety of birds, animals, and plants. Forests are the basis for more than 5,000 products, from aromatic oil distilled from leaves to herbal medicines, fuel, food, furniture and clothing; they prevent soil erosion and help to regulate the climate; they provide clean water; they inspire us in art, research and religion; and they are essential to the survival and well-being of people everywhere—all 7 billion of us. Yet, the world's forests are facing immense pressures and challenges. Key findings from the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010 show that while deforestation has slowed some what in recent years as compared to the 1990s, it is still alarmingly high.

Continued deforestation has resulted in carbon emissions, shortages in water and food supply, and an unprecedented loss of biodiversity. But the world is not standing idly by. Governments, international organizations and forest stakeholder groups are taking action—to find ways of conserving and sustainably managing forests for the benefit of present and future generations.

The United Nations proclaimed 22 May as the International Day for Biological Diversity to promote a greater understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. The theme of the 2011 International Day for Biological Diversity is forest biodiversity. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD Secretariat) encourages governments and civil society everywhere to organize activities and events to celebrate this day, raise public awareness, showcase good practices and inspire further actions for preserving forest biodiversity.

This International Year of Forests (IYF2011) event aims to raise awareness of the threats and challenges faced by forests and to promote efforts for forest conservation and sustainable management. Maintaining the world's rich forest biodiversity will help us combat the climate crisis, alleviate poverty, support human health, and leave our children and grandchildren the bountiful and beautiful legacy of living forests that we enjoy today. Many of the essential benefits we derive from forests are underpinned by forest biodiversity, as is the capacity of forests to adapt to pressures, including climate change. The greater scientific, management and political focus on forest biodiversity conservation is offering new understanding, insights and opportunities for responding more effectively to forest biodiversity loss.

Naturally yours



Vijikumar. S

Chief Editor

