



KERALA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD

EKAA

Environment. Kerala. Awareness. Action
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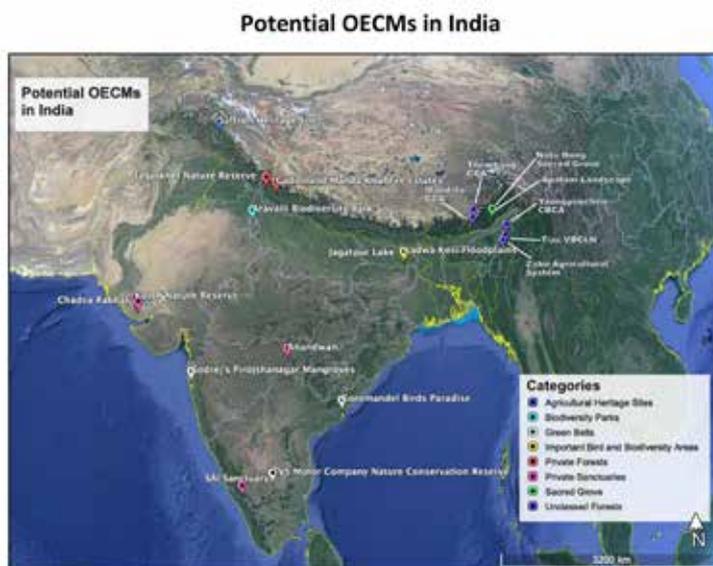
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‘Other effective area-based conservation measures’ (OECMs) - a new conservation approach’

Many areas outside the national and regional Protected Area networks often play a role in successful in-situ biodiversity conservation. ‘Other effective area-based conservation measures’ (OECMs) is such a new conservation approach, separate from Protected Areas, where conservation is achieved mainly as a by-product of other management. A definition was agreed at the 14th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2018: ‘A geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in-situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values’.

While Protected Areas must have a primary conservation objective, OECMs do not require this. OECMs may be handled for a variety of reasons, but they must always have effective conservation. They may be managed with long-term conservation as a primary or secondary goal, or it may simply be an ancillary result of management activities. The recognition of

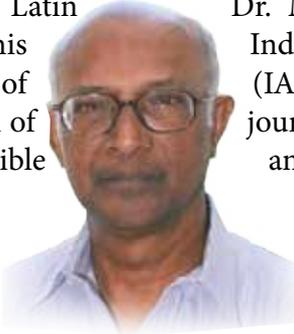
OECMs provides a major opportunity to recognize successful long-term conservation de facto outside the currently designated Protected Areas, which takes place under a variety of governance and management regimes enforced by a diverse collection of actors, including indigenous people and local communities, the private sector, and government agencies. OECMs can help to create ecologically diverse and well-connected conservation systems that are incorporated into larger ecosystems and seascapes. The declaration of OECMs can lead to many positive conservation outcomes such as conserving important ecosystems and corridors, recovery of threatened species, maintaining ecosystem functions and improving resilience against threats. In India, different categories are identified to recognize the potential OECMs. They are private forests, un-classed forests, sacred groves, Important Bird Areas and Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas, Biodiversity Parks, Green Belts in Industrial Estates, Agricultural Heritage Systems etc. National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) had constituted a Working Group for Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) under the chairmanship of Dr. V. B. Mathur, NBA Chairman. Kerala State Biodiversity Board is also in the process of identifying and reporting the potential OECMs like ‘sacred groves’ and other suitable areas across Kerala



Source: A compendium of potential OECMs in India, Report of the sub-working group on OECMs, 22 December 2020

Eminent Personalities

Prof. K.S. Manilal among the Padma Shri awardees, 2020: (Professor Kattungal Subramaniam Manilal (born 17 September 1938) is an Emeritus of the University of Calicut, a Botany scholar and taxonomist, who devoted over 35 years of his life to research, translation and annotation work of the Latin botanical treatise Hortus Malabaricus. This epic effort brought to light the main contents of the book, a wealth of botanical information of Malabar that had largely remained inaccessible to English-speaking scholars, because the entire text was in the Latin language. Prof. Manilal's efforts ultimately resulted in an English edition of Hortus Malabaricus, for the first time, 325 years after its original publication from Amsterdam with a word by word



translation of all the twelve volumes of the book, retaining the original style of language. In January 2020, Manilal was conferred with the Padma Shri award, the fourth-highest civilian honour of India, for his contribution in the field of Science and Engineering.

Dr. Manilal is the Founder President of the Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy (IAAT). He is Chief Editor of the International journal Rheedea, named after van Rhee, and recipient of the prestigious E.K. Janaki Ammal Award for Taxonomy (2003) from the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India. Professor Manilal has written over 200 research papers and 16 books of which 90 papers and 5 books are on the Hortus Malabaricus

Species Discoveries

New freshwater crab genus discovered from Western Ghats region in Idukki district

Researchers have come across a new genus of freshwater crab with two new species from the Western Ghats region in the Idukki district. The genus has been named *Raja thelphusa* after Rajakumari, the place where the specimens were spotted. The discovery has been published in the latest issue of *Zoological Studies* by Smrithy Raj and A. Biju Kumar of the Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, University of Kerala, and Prof. Peter Ng, head, Lee



Kong Chian Natural History Museum, National University of Singapore, an authority on crabs. The two new species in the genus have been christened *Raja thelphusala* and *Raja thelphusa muni*. With their discovery, the number of freshwater crab species found in the Kerala part of the Western Ghats has risen to 39 and endemic species to 20, Prof. Biju Kumar, who heads the Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, explained. 'Ala' alludes to the rock shelters used by the tribal people in the region, while 'muni' is Malayalam for the hermit.

Sonerila kanjilasseriensis (Melastomataceae)

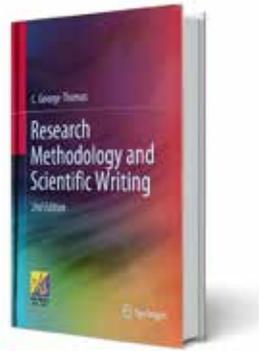
A new tuberous species from Kerala, India:

A new tuberous species of *Sonerila* from suburban areas of Kozhikode district of Kerala, India is described and illustrated as *S. kanjilasseriensis* sp. nov. The new species resembles *S. rheedei* Wall. ex Wight & Arn., but differs in having a subterranean tuber, cylindrical to sub-quadrangular stem, many-flowered cyme, the acuminate apex of the petals and distinctly 4 – 6-ribbed hypanthium and capsule. (<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12225-021-09929-4>)



Research Methodology and Scientific Writing

The recently published ‘Research Methodology and Scientific Writing’ authored by Dr. C. George Thomas, Chairman of Kerala State Biodiversity Board is an advanced guide to researchers as well as research students in all the aspects of research from finding a research problem to the publication of the thesis and research papers. The book essentially provides hints and pointers to early career researchers for improving their scientific writing skills. The content is divided into different chapters which exclusively deals with various procedures in conducting research and scientific writing and encompasses philosophy and approaches to research, developing a research problem and writing a research proposal, selection of research design, searching for related publications, and literature review, methods of data visualization, preparation of thesis and research



papers, citation and listing of references, and preparing conference presentations and posters. The book also considers the ethics in scientific writing including issues like plagiarism. This publication is important in the field of scientific research as it also focuses on some of the least considered fields such as note-taking and note-making for assignments and academic activities, guidelines for using units and numbers in publications, and tips for successful Lecturing. The publication will be an asset for research students and early career researchers as the availability of books on research methodology that concisely presents all the details and guidance in different aspects of research is relatively less. This book will be highly beneficial for researchers working in the field of biodiversity and conservation too.

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 Publishers: Springer, No. of pages: 620
 Indian co-publisher : Ane Book, New Delhi

Biodiversity news

India’s first wilderness park opened near Hyderabad

India’s first wilderness park ‘KondaGorre’ wilderness park at LalgadiMalakpet, near the Outer Ring Road on the Karimnagar highway, with a focus on biodiversity conservation, rewilding and a stated objective to be focused on total inclusivity was opened near Hyderabad on 27th November 2020 by Telangana State Forest Development Corporation (TSFDC). It has already planted over 10,000 saplings, mostly of forest species. The forest area here is about 2,635 acres, in which a small portion has developed as an urban forest park. This project is probably India’s only such initiative due to its accent on Biodiversity Conservation, Rewilding and a stated objective to be focused on total inclusivity. The Wilderness Park has

been planned under Telangana’s prestigious program for the development of Urban Forest blocks to create urban lung spaces. The Wilderness Park will be like a boon from heaven for the genuine nature lovers of the twin cities, due to its pristine scrub pockets, numerous forest grass patches, and more than 2.5 km of walking/jogging tracks.



Appreciable biodiversity efforts from Kerala

Sreekrishnapuram block panchayat of Palakkad district reviewed the prestigious Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (DDUPSP) for the 4th time. This award is given to best performing Panchayats (District, Block and Gram Panchayat) across the States/UTs in recognition of the good work that is done by PRIs at each level for improving the delivery of services and public goods.



Glimpses of KSBB Activities

RKI – Pamba Field Visit Photos



Meeting at Kozhenchery GP



BMC meeting at Vechoochira GP



BMC meeting at Ranni Angadi GP



Meeting with N.Hari Joint Programme Co-ordinator



Field visit at Ayiroor GP for Biodiversity park/interpretation centre



Meeting of traders of traded bioresources held at Kozhinjampara GP. Palakkad



BMC meeting at Malappuram Municipal BMC



Model B.M.C meeting at Karuvatta GP Alappuzha



News on KSBB Activities

The theme for Earth Day 2021 was 'Restore Our Earth', focusing on natural processes, emerging green technologies, and innovative thinking that can restore the world's ecosystems. In this way, the theme rejects the notion that mitigation or adaptation are the only ways to address climate change. It is up to each one of us to Restore Our Earth not just because we care about the natural world, but because we live on it. We all need a healthy Earth to support our jobs, livelihoods, health & survival, and happiness. A healthy planet is not an option — it is a necessity. KSBB celebrated Earth Day 2021 with an invited talk by Dr. Anilkumar, Scientist, NCESS, Thiruvananthapuram, on virtual platform, titled "Restore Our Earth".



Dr. C. George Thomas

Chairperson

Smt. Roney.R.Pillai

Member Secretary

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2. Principal Secretary, Fisheries Department
3. Principal Secretary, Forest & Wildlife Department
4. Executive Vice President, KSCSTE
5. Adl. chief Secretary, Environment Department

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7. Sri. K.V Govindan
8. Dr. T.S Swapna
9. Dr. K.T Chandramohan
10. Sri. A.K Dharni, IFS (Retd)

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