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EDITOR OF THE ISSUE

Prof. N. Thajuddin

B.S. Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science & Technology (Deemed to be University)
Seethakathi Estate, GST Road,
Vandalur, Chennai - 600 048, India
nthaju2002@yahoo.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR OF THE ISSUE

Dr. A. Panneer Selvam

Department of Botany & Microbiology,
A.V.V.M. Sri Pushpam College,
Poondi - 613 503 Thanjaur, Tamil Nadu, India
panneer_1959@yahoo.com

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rnkharwar@gmail.com

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All general correspondence should be addressed to **Prof. M. Sudhakara Reddy**, Department of Biotechnology, Thapar University, Patiala-147004, Punjab, India (Email: msreddy@thapar.edu).

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KAVAKA
being transactions of Mycological Society of India

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Prof. Rupam Kapoor
Department of Botany,
University of Delhi, Delhi - 110 007, India
kapoor_rupam@yahoo.com

SECTION EDITORS

Fungal Systematics, Evaluation, Phylogeny and Evolution

Prof. Yash Pal Sharma
Department of Botany,
University of Jammu,
Jammu - 180 006, J&K, India
yashdbm3@gmail.com

Prof. Krishnendu Acharya
Department of Botany,
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Kolkata - 700 019, India
krish_paper@yahoo.com

Fungal Endophytes, Secondary Metabolites and Mycorrhiza

Prof. B.F. Rodrigues
Department of Botany, Goa University,
Goa - 403 206, India
felinov@gmail.com

Dr. Sanjeeva Nayak
CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute,
Lucknow - 226 001, India
nayaka.sanjeeva@gmail.com

Fungal Biotechnology

Prof. J. Savitha
Department of Microbiology & Biotechnology,
Bangalore University, Jnanabharathi Campus
Bangalore - 560 056, India
drsvtj@yahoo.co.in

Prof. Naveen Kango
Department of Microbiology,
Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya,
Sagar - 470 003, Madhya Pradesh, India
nkango@gmail.com

Marine Biology and Fungal Physiology

Prof. M. Kalaiselvam
CAS in Marine Biology,
Faculty of Marine Sciences,
Annamalai University,
Parangipettai - 608 502, India
kalaifms@gmail.com

Prof. N. Thajuddin
Department of Microbiology,
Bharathidasan University,
Tiruchirappalli - 620 024, India
nthaju2002@yahoo.com

Plant Pathology and Disease Management

Prof. N. Mathivanan
Centre for Advanced Studies in Botany,
University of Madras, Guindy Campus,
Chennai - 600 025, India
prabhamathi@yahoo.com

Dr. Pankaj Baiswar
Plant Pathology Division,
ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region,
Umiam - 793 103, Meghalaya, India
pbaiswar@yahoo.com

MANAGING EDITOR

Dr. Surinder Kaur Walia
Department of Botany, SGTB Khalsa College, University of Delhi, Delhi - 110 007, India
skwalia24@yahoo.co.in

ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITORS

Dr. C. K. Pradeep
Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden &
Research Institute, Palode,
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drckpradeep@hotmail.com

Dr. V. Venkateswara Sarma
Department of Biotechnology,
School of Life Sciences, Pondicherry University,
Puducherry - 605 014, India
sarmavv@yahoo.com

EDITORIAL BOARD

Prof. Resurreccion B. Sadaba
Division of Biological Sciences,
College of Arts and Sciences,
University of the Philippines Visayas, Philippines
sadaba09@gmail.com

Prof. C. Manoharachary
NASI Senior Scientist
Department of Botany, Osmania University,
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cmchary@gmail.com

Prof. T. Satyanarayana
Division of Biological Science and Engineering,
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New Delhi - 110 078, India
tsnarayana@gmail.com

Prof. M. V. Rajam
Department of Genetics,
University of Delhi, South Campus,
New Delhi - 110 021, India
rajam.mv@gmail.com

Prof. N.K. Dubey
Botany Department,
Banaras Hindu University
Varanasi - 221 005, India
nkubeybhu@gmail.com

Dr. Sanjay K. Singh
National Fungal Culture Collection of
India, MACS Agharkar Research Institute,
Pune - 411 004, India
singhsksingh@gmail.com

Prof. Ashish Vyas
Department of Microbiology,
Lovely Professional University,
Phagwara - 144411, India
vyas.lpu@gmail.com

Dr. P.Y. Prakash
Dept. of Microbiology, Kasturba Medical College,
Manipal Academy of Higher Education,
Manipal - 576 104, India
prakashpy123@yahoo.co.in

Prof. R.N. Kharwar
Department of Botany
Banaras Hindu University,
Varanasi - 221 005, Uttar Pradesh, India
rnkharwar@gmail.com

Prof. Dilip Hande
Botany Department,
Shri Shivaji Science College,
Amravati - 444 603, Maharashtra, India
dvhande@gmail.com

Dr. V. Kumaresan
Department of Botany,
Kanchi Mamunivar Govt. Institute for Postgraduate
Studies and Research,
Puducherry - 605 008, India
vkumaresan36@yahoo.com

Dr. D. Nagaraju
Department of Botany,
Govt. City College(A),
Hyderabad - 500 002, Telangana, India
nagaraj.bot9@gmail.com

Dr. M. Kandhasamy
Department of Botany,
Government Arts College,
Karur - 639 005, Tamil Nadu, India
mookiah_kandhan@yahoo.co.in

Prof. D.J. Bagyaraj
Centre for Natural Biological Resources and
Community Development,
Bangaluru - 560 024, India
djbagyaraj@gmail.com

Prof. D.J. Bhat
128/1-J, Azad Housing Society,
Curca, P.O. Goa Velha,
Goa - 403 108, India
bhatdj@gmail.com

Prof. N.S. Atri,
Department of Botany,
Punjab University,
Patiala - 147 002, India.
narinderatri04@gmail.com

Prof. K.R. Sridhar
Department of Biosciences,
Mangalore University, Mangalagangothri,
Mangalore - 574 199, India
kandikere@gmail.com

Prof. Absar Ahmad
Interdisciplinary Nanotechnology Centre,
Aligarh Muslim University,
Aligarh - 202001, India
aahmad786in@gmail.com

Dr. K. B. Vrinda
Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden &
Research Institute, Palode,
Thiruvananthapuram - 695 562, India
drvindakb@hotmail.com

Dr. Kanad Das
Botanical Survey of India, Cryptogamic Unit,
P.O. Indian Botanic Garden,
Howrah - 711 103, India
daskanadbsi@gmail.com

Prof. K.P. Kannan
Dept. of Biotechnology,
Bannari Amman Institute of Technology,
Sathyamangalam - 638 401, India
drkpkannan@gmail.com

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dr. Lhanjey P. Wangdi
Department of Botany,
NBBGC, Tadong, Gangtok,
East-Sikkim - 737102, Sikkim, India
lhanjeyb@gmail.com

Dr. A. Panner Selvam
Department of Botany & Microbiology,
A.V.V.M. Sri Pushpam College,
Poondi - 613 503 Thanjaur, Tamil Nadu, India
panneer_1959@yahoo.com

Prof. C. Srinivas
Dept. of Microbiology & Biotechnology
Bangalore University,
Jnanabharathi Campus,
Bangalore - 560 056, Karnataka, India
srinivasbub@gmail.com

Dr. Shambhu Kumar,
Forest Pathology Department,
KSCSTE - Kerala Forest Research Institute,
Kerala, India
skumartaxon@gmail.com

Dr. M. Kumar
Department of Plant Biology and Plant
Biotechnology,
Madras Christian College,
Chennai - 600 059, Tamil Nadu, India
kumarmccbotany@gmail.com

Prof. T.N. Lakhnupal
Department of Biosciences
H.P. University,
Shimla - 171 005, India
tezlakhnupal@rediffmail.com

Dr. Chandralata Raghukumar
Emeritus Scientist
National Institute of Oceanography,
Goa - 403 004, India
lata_raghukumar@rediffmail.com

Prof. Geeta Sumbali
Department of Botany,
University of Jammu,
Jammu - 180 006
geetasumbali1957@gmail.com

Prof. K.R. Aneja
Department of Microbiology
Kurukshetra University
Kurukshetra - 136 119, India
anejakr@yahoo.com

Prof. Munruchi Kaur
Department of Botany,
Punjab University,
Patiala - 147 002, India
munruchi@gmail.com

Prof. R.M. Mulani,
School of Life Sciences,
Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University,
Nanded - 431606, India
mulani1961@gmail.com

Dr. Sushil Kumar Shahi
Botany Department,
Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya,
Bilaspur - 495009, India
sushilkshahi@gmail.com

Dr. Yogesh Joshi
Department of Botany,
Central University of Rajasthan SSJ Campus,
Almora - 263601, India
dryogeshcalo@gmail.com

Prof. Praveen Gehlot
Department of Botany,
Jai Narain Vyas University,
Jodhpur - 342 001, Rajasthan, India
drpg73@rediffmail.com

Dr. K. Malarvizhi
Centre for Advanced Studies in Botany, University
of Madras, Guindy Campus,
Chennai - 600 025, Tamil Nadu, India
malar.kaliyaperumal@gmail.com

Dr. Avneet Pal Singh
Department of Botany
Punjab University,
Patiala - 147 002, Punjab, India
avneet7@rediffmail.com

Dr. N.K. Udaya Prakash,
Department of Biotechnology,
Vels Institute of Science, Technology and
Advanced Studies,
Chennai - 600 117, Tamil Nadu, India
nkudayaprakash@gmail.com

Dr. V. Shanmugaiah
Department of Microbial Technology,
Madurai Kamaraj University,
Madurai - 625 021, Tamil Nadu, India
vshanmugaiah@yahoo.co.in

Dear Readers,
Greetings from the Editor's desk!

With immense pride and enthusiasm, we present the second issue of the 60th volume of KAVAKA, a milestone in our ongoing journey to advance mycological research. This edition features ten papers that profoundly contribute to various facets of mycology and its related fields. As you peruse the pages of KAVAKA, you will find documented various research articles showcasing rigorous research, innovative methodologies, and insightful findings that enhance our understanding and appreciation of fungi.

The first paper investigates the diversity of foliar endophytic fungi in two cultivated ferns – *Marsilea quadrifolia* and *Nephrolepis cordifolia* – which enhances our understanding of endophytic communities in ferns, revealing the intricate relationships between these fungi and their host plants. Following this is an insightful investigation into the various environmental factors that influence the growth of *Microsporum gypseum*. By elucidating the optimal conditions for its growth, this research provides crucial information for managing this dermatophyte in clinical and environmental settings. Furthermore, expanding the catalogue of Indian fungi through combined morphological and molecular phylogenetic analysis, two of the articles in the journal report the first occurrence of the two fungal genera - *Singerocybe* and *Tomentelloid* in India, thereby contributing to the growing inventory of fungal biodiversity in India and highlight the ecological roles of these fungi.

Focusing on the medicinal mushroom *Ganoderma lucidum*, the subsequent article explores the production and purification of its bioactive compounds, offering potential applications in pharmaceuticals and health supplements. The present volume also includes studies evaluating the antioxidant properties of edible mushrooms, highlighting their health benefits and potential as functional foods. Further, you will find research that opens new avenues for fungi-based nanotechnology in medicine, industry, and aquaculture practices, and studies with significant implications of fungal technology for sustainable waste management and bioremediation.

Taken together, every paper in this volume illustrates the diverse and intricate field of mycological research, spanning from fundamental studies on fungal diversity to applied research, from biodiversity assessments and environmental interactions to biotechnological innovations. In toto, these papers collectively enhance our understanding and appreciation of the fungal kingdom. We hope these contributions inspire further research and foster a deeper engagement with the fascinating world of mycology.

On that note, I extend my deepest gratitude to the authors, reviewers, and contributors for their dedication and the laborious hours they have invested in bringing this issue of KAVAKA to fruition. Their efforts have ensured the continued high standards and relevance of our journal in the field of mycology. I am also thankful to our readers for their continued support and engagement with KAVAKA.

In conclusion, I would also like to add that continued exploration and research in mycology hold the promise of unveiling novel insights and applications that will significantly benefit both ecological balance and human welfare. With that promise, we hope that the findings and

insights presented in this volume will inspire and drive future research, fostering a deeper understanding of fungi and their myriad roles in our world.

30th June 2024

Warm regards

Prof. Rupam Kapoor
Editor-in-Chief (KAVAKA)
Professor, Department of Botany
University of Delhi, Delhi -110 007

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