

Transactions of the Mycological Society of India

Golden Jubilee Year

Volume 59, Issue 1 March 2023





VOLUME 59, ISSUE 1 (MARCH) 2023

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Competition for Design of Logo for Golden Jubilee was conducted among Members of Mycological Society of India during January 2023. Logo designed by **Mr. Kailash Patel**, Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, SKRAU, Bikaner, Rajasthan, India was selected as the best and it is included in the Front Cover page.

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The Mycological Society of India was founded in January 1973 with a view to bring together the mycologists of the country and with the broad objective of promoting the development of Mycology in India in all its aspects and in the widest perspective.

Membership is open to all interested in mycology. The Life Member subscription is Rs. 4000/- in India and £100 or US\$ 200 for those in abroad. The annual member subscription is Rs. 1000/- in India and £20 or US \$ 40 for those in abroad. The hard copies of Kavaka can be made available for individuals in India @ Rs. 2000/- per year, institutions in India @Rs. 5000/-per year, individuals in foreign countries @ US\$150/ Euro 125 per year and institutions in foreign countries @ US\$250/ Euro200 per year. Subscriptions are to be sent to the Treasurer, **Prof. N. Mathivanan**, Centre for Advanced Studies in Botany, University of Madras, Guindy Campus, Chennai - 600025, Tamil Nadu, India (Email: prabhamathi@yahoo.com).

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The name of the journal KAVAKA is a Sanskrit word which means Fungus.

ISSN 0379-5179 ISSN-L 0379-5179

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From the Editor's desk

Congratulations and greetings from Kavaka!

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Mycological Society of India (MSI), coinciding with G20 Presidency of India and 75 years of Independence, we embark onto the journey of releasing the 59th volume of 'Kavaka', the official journal of the MSI.

While we harp on the tune of G20, implementing sustainable development goals becomes critical more so, entailing wide-ranging targets from moderating climate change, affordable and clean energy to responsible consumption and sustainable use of resources into the bargain. Lately, attention has grown to the role of microbiome in achieving the actualisation of the 'sustainability' goals. The dire need of sustainable development has renewed global interest in microbiome and bio-functionality thereof in delivering multiple agroecosystem services. With giving due cognizance to their nuisance value, exploiting the potential of microbes, as promising as the 'Fungi', is considered, without exaggeration, the most definitive solution to sustainable agriculture for the remote future.

The world of fungi provides a fascinating and incessant source of biological diversity, which is a rich source to harness. Only a fraction of total fungal wealth has been subjected to scientific scrutiny, which has unfurled their potential applications in the bioeconomy and sustainable future. The scientific community needs to be saturated with information about the collective microbial database, including the uncultivated 'unseen majority', and in achieving that 'Kavaka' plays a key role by providing a platform for dissemination of such information. Since years, 'Kavaka' as a service to science, has helped in strengthening the mycological 'mycelia' by narrating the multifarious roles of fungi in the bioeconomy and otherwise.

In India, the potential of fungal biome has not been fully tapped. In that case, a journal like 'Kavaka', which is devoted to mycological research premised in Indian context becomes particularly pertinent. 'Kavaka' has set out as an educational resource to promote awareness about the importance of fungi and their applications. As the Editor-in-Chief, it imbues a sense of pride in me while highlighting that this journal, volume after volume, has been providing a platform for decades to both established and budding researchers to communicate their work, which usually does not find due place in the international journals. With this renewed sense of gratification, I sincerely hope that this issue of 'Kavaka' will contribute, in some way or another, to the ongoing discussion on sustainable agriculture practices and inspire researchers, policymakers, and farmers to explore the potential of microbiome. This will not only advance us towards achieving the goals of G20 but will also shape and strengthen the Indian academic architecture on a global forum.

The transformative promise of 'Leave No One Behind' will fast-track global progress, and fungal biology is in a good position to make this work. Hence, through Editor's desk, I take this opportunity to invite all the promising and incipient mycologists to unite and contribute towards uplifting the facade of mycological science in India. I am much grateful to the members of MSI and office bearers and contributors of 'Kavaka' for their unflinching enthusiasm. I am rather excited to take to the road for working towards a collective mission of cultivating mycology for the goodwill of scientific society and society *per se*. I owe an unpayable debt to President MSI, Prof. N. Raaman; Secretary MSI, Prof. Sudhakar Reddy; former Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Yashpal Sharma, and Editor of the issue Prof. Kalaiselvam for their constant support. It is with their cooperation and dedication that the 59th volume of 'Kavaka' has seen light of the day.

31 March 2023

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