

क्रवक

being
Transactions of the
Mycological Society of India

Golden Jubilee Year

Volume 59, Issue 3
September 2023



VOLUME 59, ISSUE 3 (SEPTEMBER) 2023

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

ISSN 0379-5179

ISSN-L 0379-5179

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<http://www.fungiindia.co.in>

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From the Editor's Desk

Dear readers

Greetings from KAVAKA

In recent years, the world has witnessed a quiet revolution taking place beneath our feet, in our forests, and even in our kitchens. This revolution rather involves an exploration of the fascinating world of fungi, particularly mushrooms. Mushrooms, often celebrated in the culinary world for their diverse flavours and textures, are gaining recognition for their pivotal roles in sustainable development and bioprospecting. Beyond their delectable tastes, mushrooms are quietly shaping a greener, more prosperous future for our planet.

Macrofungi have long been a source of sustenance for humans, offering unique flavours and nutritional benefits. From the prized truffles to the umami-delivery vehicles – shiitakes, culinary traditions around the world have celebrated these fungi. Yet, it is in recent years that mushrooms have transcended their roles as ingredients in our favourite dishes and emerged as a powerful symbol of change. One of the most striking aspects of the mushroom revolution is its potential to reshape our relationship with the environment. The underground mycelial web of life, often referred to as the "Wood Wide Web," has awakened our understanding of interconnectedness and the importance of biodiversity. Given the umpteen benefits that fungi bring to the table, exploring their diversity and distribution, and their bioprospecting is a research hotspot, in terms of their potential uses in various industries, including medicine, food, and biotechnology. The fast-growing enzymes market has also impelled the continuous search for novel enzymes producers with desirable industrial characteristics, wherein various micro and macrofungi have represented a promising competitor in enzymes production in terms of higher productivity and lower invested cost.

The father of medicine, Hippocrates, once said "*Let food be your medicine and medicine be your food.*" Thus, the tremendous value of fungi in general, and mushrooms in particular, as medicinal food, drug, and nutritive mineral values justifies this immortal saying by presenting themselves as a rare commodity and asset for human welfare. Fungi play a key role as a therapeutic agent for various diseases in research and development for future medical interventions. For coming decades, fungi can be considered as magical therapeutics, which can trigger a positive response due to their healing qualities that are best explored by various researches, and shown potential application in the area of nanomedicine, pharmacognosy, microbiology and food technology.

In conclusion, the fungal revolution is a multifaceted phenomenon, transcending the boundaries of science, sustainability, medicine, and spirituality. It invites us to rethink our relationship with nature, with one another, and with ourselves. As we continue to explore the wondrous world of fungi, let us remember that revolutions need not always be loud and tumultuous; they can also be quiet, transformative, and rooted in the most unexpected places.

So, dear readers, I encourage you to join us in embracing the fungal revolution. Let us foster a deeper understanding of these remarkable organisms and their potential to reshape our world for the better. As the Editor-in-Chief of KAVAKA, I pledge to continue bringing you the latest research, insights, and stories about the fascinating world of fungi. Together, we can usher in a quieter, yet profound revolution — one that celebrates the resilience, adaptability, and interconnectedness of life on Earth.

30 September 2023

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