

Editor's Note

Special Publication on Life Sciences

This special issue of the Indian Journal of Scientific Research presents selected scientific papers presented in the 27th Swadeshi Science Congress jointly organized and conducted by Swadeshi science Movement-Kerala, a unit of Vijnan Bharati (Vibha), New Delhi and Amrita Viswa Vidya Peetham at Amritapuri, Vallikavu, Kollam, Kerala from 6th to 8th November, 2017. Among the 16 sessions, most important session was Life Sciences. There were serious discussions on this session. Out of the papers presented a few papers have been chosen for special publication.

The section on Life Sciences seamlessly straddles papers from all its core branches. Seven papers highlight the emerging role of phytonutritional in human health and wellbeing. The paper on the anti-bacterial efficacy of *Allium cepa* – the culinary garlic – reiterates its therapeutic value and justifies it as the wonder drug of the 21st century. Extracting dyes from the exotic weed *Eichornia* – the cursed water hyacinth – is a perfect example of garnering wealth from waste and promotes detritus agriculture. In the present scenario of declining species, the paper documenting the moth fauna of the Malabar region in Kerala and the bacterial communities of the Arctic are significant. Inland shell and fin fish diversity of the Kayamkulam backwaters in Kerala and description of the resilient feeding niches of the Indian Mackerel have also been attempted. Three papers focus on the lesser known services of the mangrove ecosystem. The larvicidal potential of mangrove leaf extracts and the isolation of biofouling organisms from them provide newer insights adding weight to the need for eco-restoration. On a different note, the paper disseminating the changing dimensions of science education promises to be an important step in igniting young minds. A few important papers provide a glimpse on the huge potential for biotechnological innovations in combating several human diseases/disorders using local varieties of animals and plants. Preliminary observations from these studies indicate the possibilities for further advanced research to refine the methodologies, extract the actual bio active compound and synthesize novel drugs using the rich native flora and fauna. The papers published here will be interest for future research programmes.

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