NATIONAL CONFERENCE on Advances and Perspectives in Cryptogam Research

09 - 11 December, 2024

Discover the tranquil beauty of nature's wonders



Jointly Organized by

Indian Lichenological Society

and



CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute Lucknow

www.indianlichenology.com

Preamble

Cryptogams, non-flowering plants, represent a significant portion of India's plant diversity. Historically, this group of plants has been largely overlooked by botanists, not just in India but worldwide. However, in the past 50 years, Indian researchers have made significant progress in studying cryptogams, providing a robust foundation through checklists, floras, and monographs of key taxa. Cryptogams play a crucial role in biodiversity and ecosystem functions, serving as sensitive indicators of environmental conditions, contributing to soil formation and stabilization, aiding in the decomposition of organic material, and facilitating nutrient cycling. The importance of cryptogams in maintaining biological diversity and their economic significance for both human and animal life is now being increasingly recognized. Given the increasing environmental disturbances caused by human activity, there is a pressing need for further research in these areas.

In response to the growing awareness of the value of cryptogams, the Indian Lichenological Society (ILS) is organizing this national conference to bring together researchers from across India working on lower plant groups such as Algae, Lichens, Fungi, Bryophytes, and Pteridophytes. This conference aims to provide a platform for discussing emerging issues related to cryptogams, promoting their study and sustainable development. It will be a unique gathering of eminent scientists, researchers, scholars, and students who will share the latest advancements in the field to contribute to the sustainable development of our society.

About the Indian Lichenological Society (ILS)

The society is an association of lichen research and enthusiasts established in year 2014 for the promotion of lichen research in India. The society is registered under Society Registration Act 1860 at Lucknow. The society provides an international platform to advance the modern concept in lichenology as well as in cryptogams. It strives to provide information on latest developments and research advances in the area of lichenology through its official journal the "Cryptogam Biodiversity and Assessment" (www.cbaj.in) and "ILS eLetter". The society organizes conferences, training programs and workshops on major topics of lichenology and other cryptogams. The life members of ILS are located in more than five countries.

Membership in ILS

The society offers membership to any interested cryptogam researcher with 'Life Membership' fee of Rs. 4000 and 'Ordinary membership' for Rs. 1000. For more information please visit the society website: <u>www.indianlichenology.com</u>.

About the CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute

CSIR-NBRI, a premier plant-based research institute under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi, was originally established as the National Botanical Garden (NBG) by the Government of Uttar Pradesh and was later taken over by CSIR in 1953. From its inception, CSIR-NBRI has been actively engaged in research on lower plant groups, with a special focus on algae, lichens, bryophytes, and pteridophytes. The institute is unique in its comprehensive approach, encompassing everything from plant taxonomy to bioprospecting studies under one roof. The institute's herbarium (LWG) houses over 1.5 lakh specimens of cryptogams, and it boasts an excellent library and state-of-the-art infrastructure for lichen research. The conference venue not only provides a valuable opportunity to meet renowned taxonomists but also offers access to a vast collection of specimens and a wealth of literature housed in the institute's library.

How to reach the venue?

CSIR-NBRI is located at the heart of Lucknow City, just 1.5 km from Hazratganj metro station, 6-7 km from Lucknow Railway station (LKO and LJN) and about 15 km from Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport. The city is well connected with public transportation facilities such as metro, rickshaws, taxi and city buses. In addition, the city has services of Ola, Uber, and Rapido.

Themes

The conference would accept abstracts related to cryptogrammic (Algae, Lichens, Fungi, Bryophytes, and Pteridophytes) researches under following themes.

- Taxonomic studies revision, molecular phylogeny and flora
- Biomonitoring and biodeterioration
- Bioprospection
- Ecology, conservation and phytogeography
- Biochemistry and physiology
- Reproductive biology
- Biotechnology and bioinformatics

Call for abstract

Abstracts for the conference (maximum 500 words, excluding title, name, and affiliation) should be submitted exclusively through the Google Form provided. If you do not receive a confirmation of your abstract submission within 10 days, please contact the conference secretariat at indianlichenology@gmail. com. The Scientific Programme Committee reserves the right to edit or reject any abstract. Please note that abstracts will be printed only after the registration fee has been received.

Each presenting participant may submit a maximum of two abstracts. The presenting author's full address, including phone number and email address, along with the indication of the topic area, must be included with the abstract submission. All submissions, including the Google Form and other required details, must be completed by November 15, 2024.

Mode of presentation

The authors can select their preferred mode of presentation, Oral or Poster in the registration form. However, the final decision regarding mode of presentation will be taken by the organizing committee depending upon the nature of work and number of presenters. The oral presentation should be short and concise with a maximum time of 15 minutes (including discussion) which may be modified by the organizers depending upon the number of presenters. The poster can be made of flex or paper printed and the size should not exceed 36 (width) x 48 (length) inches.

How to register?

Conference registration is available exclusively through the Google Form. The registration fee details are provided below. You can access the registration form by <u>clicking here</u>. Details are available on our society's website: <u>www.indianlichenology.com</u>. If you encounter any difficulties with the registration form, please contact the organizing secretary at indianlichenology@gmail.com. Please ensure that the completed Google Form and registration fee are submitted by November 30, 2024.

Registration fees

Following is the structure of registration fees for the conference.

| Category of participants | On or before 15 Nov. 24 (No accommodation) | On or before 15 Nov. 24 (with accommodation) | After 15 Nov. 24 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Delegates* (ILS life members) | Rs. 2000/- | Rs. 3500/- | Rs. 4500/- |
| Delegates (non-ILS members) | Rs. 2500/- | Rs. 4000/- | Rs. 5000/- |
| P.G. Students | Rs. 1000/- | Rs. 2500/- | Rs. 3500/- |
| Accompanying person# | Rs. 1500/- | Rs. 2000/- | Rs. 4000/- |

Registration fee includes conference kit, accommodation, and food (breakfast, lunch, and dinner).

*Delegates include Scientists, Professors, Research scholars, JRFs, SRFs, PhD scholars, Post-doctoral Fellows, and industry professionals.

#Accompanying persons will not receive a conference kit; they will only be provided with accommodation and food during the conference.

Fee remittance details

Name

The registration fee should be paid through RTGS/NEFT/IMPS favour of "Indian Lichenological Society",

- Account No. : 34349534762
 - : Indian Lichenological Society
- Bank : State Bank of India
- Branch : NBRI Lucknow
- Address : National Botanical Research Institute, Rana Pratap Marg, Lucknow
- IFSC Code : SBIN0010173

MICR Code : 226002051

Registration fee in cash will be accepted from the local participants only. Besides, cash can be paid for spot registration on the inaugural day of the conference with late fee.

Important dates to remember

Abstract Submission (open) : October 01st, 2024 Abstract Submission (close) : November 15th, 2024 Registration : October 01st - November 30th, 2024

Highlights of the conference

The conference will include keynote lectures by eminent scientists. The special lecture on biodiversity conservation will be organized.

Awards and Prizes

To recognize and encourage excellence in cryptogam research, the following awards will be presented at the conference:

1. Dr. D.D. Awasthi Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award

This prestigious award honors a senior lichenologist for their exceptional contributions to lichenology in India. The recipient will be selected by the Executive Council of the Indian Lichenological Society (ILS) and will receive a memento and a citation.

2. Dr. P.G. Patwardhan Award

This award is given for the best oral presentation in both the student and delegate categories. One winner from each category will be chosen based on their presentation during the conference by the chairing committee.

3. Dr. Ajay Singh Award

This award recognizes the best poster presentations in both the student and delegate categories. One winner from each category will be selected based on their presentation by the judging committee.

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