

Biosphere: Forms and Functions

The book entitled "Biosphere: Forms and Functions", the Second Volume of Professor B.N. Verma Festschrift series contains 16 research articles concerned with heterotrophic fungi, Pteridophytes and higher plants. The ethnomedicinal values of some common vascular Cryptogams, the Pteridophyte, in the Aravalli ranges of Rajasthan have been discussed. Developing weevil resistance in an economic plant like sweet potato through tissue culture technique and improvement of protein quality as well as quantity in French bean are important achievements of biotechnology, this has been discussed in details. Antimicrobial activity of spices cultivated in India, Ayurvedic Pharmacopaeial plant resources of Capparidaceae and the role of temperature on plants with special reference to wheat has been enumerated. The seedling diseases due to storage fungi of the crop seeds, the associated metabolic disorders, study of mycoflora in plants belonging to the family Umbelliferae and taxonomical as well as ethnomycological observations on edible mushrooms of Arunachal Pradesh have been well described. The structure and behavior of eukaryotic chromosomes in Radish and overexploitation of Victoria Park in Gujarat causing to degradation of the forest are some of the contributions which have been given due place in this the compendium along with experts criticism over review of embryological studies in the genus *Alysicarpus*. The book would be useful as textbook to advanced undergraduate students and to postgraduate students and as a reference book to the scientists working on basic as well as the applied aspects of plants.

Dr. Prem Kumar Prasad is well known for his consistent high academic performance as a student, as a researcher and as a teacher. He secured first position in first class securing high percentage of marks at honours level and awarded CSIR fellowship for doctoral research. He was awarded Ph.D. degree in the year 1989 from B.R.A. Bihar University. He has contributed a maiden research on the relationship of plant parasitic nematodes and cyanobacteria in vitro and in vivo. He made commendable contribution on the soil algae of North Bihar and adjoining areas of Nepal after establishing a self designed methodology to quantify the soil algae. He has acquired 26 years of teaching experience and is associated with about a dozen learned societies of India and abroad in different capacities. He has established his worth in publication of more than 15 research articles in the journals of International repute.



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