

## EDITORIAL

It is always a pleasure to pen an editorial for the Indian Entomologist steered by the most hardworking and ingenious team of active and young entomologists. Indian Entomologist is the hallmark of “young entomology” of India, being successfully accomplished in the last few years with absolute passion, and wonderful themes which are current and the most upcoming.



I believe and be delighted that it will be better to make a choice- that this time the editorial shall introspect how the young entomologists are performing in India in its Entomology bastions in the State Agricultural Universities (SAUs)/ in the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in its deemed universities/ other institutes, and in the few traditional universities with Entomology as a field of specialisation in Zoology. Recently the Entomological Society of India conducted an Entomology Students’ Conclave (ESC) 2024 from February 21 to 23, 2024, at the University of Agricultural Sciences (GKVK), Bangalore where these were showcased. This event exclusively meant for students provided a platform for displaying what are tenets of Entomology and what kind of research is going on in India, especially in the hands of the young and current practitioners of Entomology. This also enabled knowledge exchange, collaboration, and professional development, for the students and young entomologists. The celebration of ESI’s foundation day with honouring of stalwarts in Entomology added special significance, as it enabled an interface between established excellence and the forthcoming excellence. This event provided snapshots of how Entomology research is progressing in India, and what are its frontiers, and how the performance stands in relation to the global scenario, especially in its expectations and prospects.

Let me detail few salient aspects from the snapshots of the event - The conclave featured addresses by prominent entomologists who emphasized the critical role of entomology in agriculture, biodiversity, and public health, and the stage was set for discussions on the latest trends and challenges in various themes of Entomology. These covered Biodiversity and Taxonomy; Biological Control; Integrated Pest Management; Beneficial Insects; Insect Physiology, Insect Vectors, and Molecular advances in Entomology; Insect Toxicology; Host Plant Resistance; and Insect Ecology; Climate change and insects, Industrial Entomology, and Non-insect pests of crops. There were more than 300 abstracts submitted with nearly 200 of them being presented to showcase the frontlines of research going on in Entomology. These sessions fostered an environment of detailed discussions and exchange of ideas, allowing participants to engage deeply with peers and stalwarts. Awards and Recognitions, celebration of ESI Foundation Day and special lectures which were purposefully held with the Conclave gave an opportunity for the young researchers as to what themes in Entomology provide an appeal and draw accolades, and how the Entomology has been performing to its purposes and needs.

Now let me also get into my sincere observations that I gathered from this event, also allow me to give an absolute inference on how Entomology stands currently with its young practitioners in the NARS of our country. To say very briefly, sadly and in one word, I will say “mediocre” as much of the research is redundant. Let us not blame the young students, those who preach entomology to them in most cases need introspection! Except for a few, which can be easily counted in fingers, many of these are outmoded, the outcome of which are not even appropriate for a research note in standard acclaimed journals of the current day! Yet there is a silver lining with few of the researches standing apart and these received accolades deserving the same, and continue so. Yes, we need to be optimistic with the latter. It is time that we entomologists introspect this deplorable current status and take ameliorative steps. I do not know how many of those who read this will get evoked by this realistic opinion of mine; however wrong or right it might be?

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