

Editorial

High Impact Factor Insect Papers- Hyped? Insect Decline-the Culprit is Light!

Of late some Entomological papers, especially in so called "Impact Factor" (IF) Journals look at least to me incomprehensible and seem hyped with augmented software and machine-generated data on chemicals and life systems, and stat packages converting them into "absurd" graphical figures. The papers use costly chemicals and statistical packages, from multinational firms and these are multi-dollar businesses. Are we succumbing to these in the name of high-end papers, in high impact journals just to get promotions and perhaps awards?



Is IF an international business play? As I said in my last editorial 1000's of standard and applied journals have been given ratings <6 by NAAS; the basis is unclear! Nobody knows and it is impossible by any committee to rate mountains of journal every two years. Yet it is done! Here the clear winners are the international publishers with the advantage of IF attributed to their journal from 'citations'. This is not a level playing field. Say, if one publishes a paper on improved agronomy in Ragi millet (*Eleusine coracane*) who are the takers? Maybe the South Indian agricultural scientists and farmers. Who will cite the paper? The need to cite may not arise as the finding will find mention in extension bulletins and many times in regional languages, inaccessible to nose-y citation list tickers! But the journal and author which publish such papers do great service to the stakeholder. Such authors unfortunately are outside the radar of awards and promotions. The hyped writers who sway to international publishing have an advantage. Indian journals run by reputed societies and academics are relegated to lower rating and perhaps tactfully diverting promotion-aspiring authors to IF business journals.

Another strategy perhaps is dubbing any journal (registered following the law of the land) attempting sincere publishing a predatory journal! Is this a tiger versus deer game? Even a newspaper can publish a scientific article that too by a non-specialist, and how dare they are dubbed predators- a term that has caught on in scientific circles? Of course. I am for an orderly research investigation, with clear hypothesis and experimentation and sensible and 'natural

intelligence' analysis with inference leading to advancement of knowledge for application for mankind. Even a good observation or record can be of high value. *Insect Environment* is proud to be one such journal that supports newness of relevance without hype or fraud. Against this backdrop I request all our readers to watch a YouTube presentation by Prof P. Balaram (Former Editor, *Current Science*) on "Science publishing, greed, vanity and the decline of scholarship. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndtYh_rp7yw&t=17s).

From this issue, we have new International Editorial Advisors additionally joining us: Dr. Yubak Dhoj G C, Senior Agricultural Officer (Plant Protection) for FAO, Executive Secretary, Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission Secretariat, Bangkok; Dr Carlos A H Flechtmann, Department of Plant Protection, FEIS/UNESP, Solteira, Sao Paula Brazil and Dr Ravindra Chandra Joshi, Senior Consultant, Philippine Rice Research Institute, Philippines. We heartily welcome these three highly accomplished entomologists. They will help promote insect journalism and blogging from those parts of the world. We thank Dr. Subramanian Sevgan and Dr. D N Nagaraj for their excellent photographic contributions to *Insect Lens*.

Insect decline: To our readers, I would like to recommend "The Darkness Manifesto" by Johan Eklöf. I quote one of his statements, "With about half of all insects on the planet nocturnal, artificial light is robbing them of food and reproductive partners." Do we recommend light traps? We had a busy last quarter, evident from all our blogs and we will continue to play our role, as the only 'make in India' blog-news journal on topical insect scenario in India and the globe. Our extension gallery in this issue shows how our small team outreaches relevantly in insect conservation and management.

I richly appreciate the contribution of Co-Editor-In-Chief Dr. M.A Rashmi who has been upholding the insect journal and blogs very dynamically and efficiently.

Dr Abraham Verghese

Editor-in-Chief