

## *Taxonomic diversity vis-a-vis functional diversity in insects - Back to basics but looking forward*

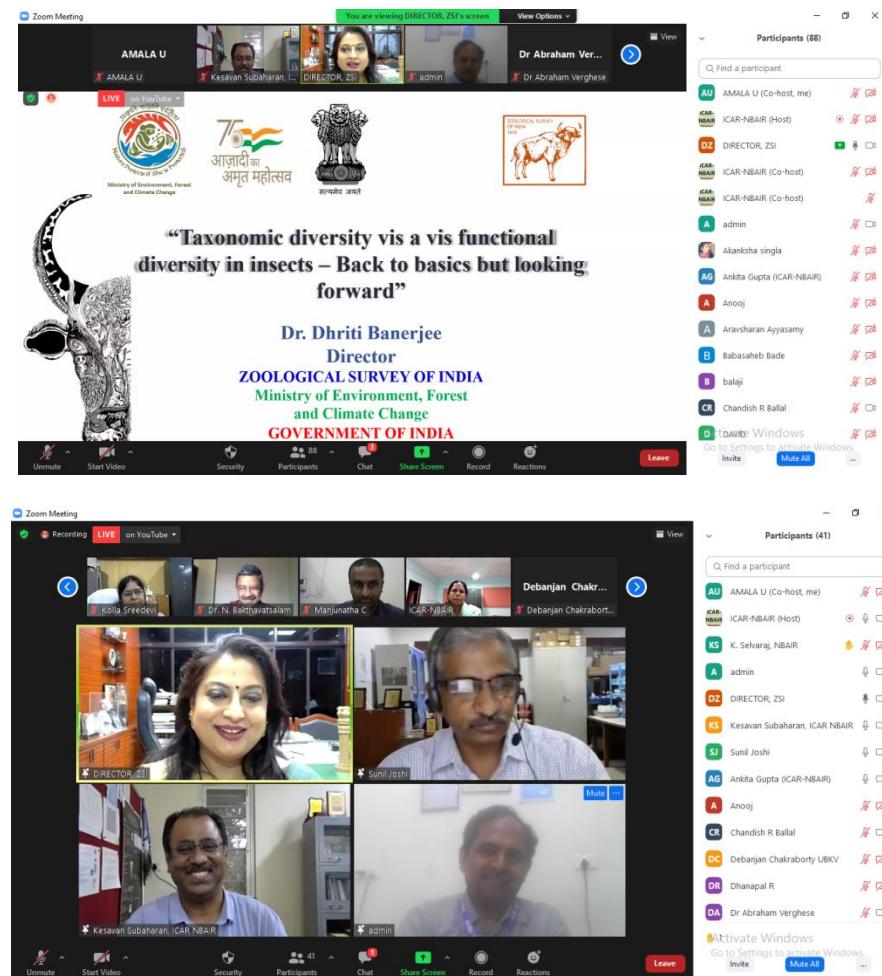
**Webinar report from ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru,  
Karnataka, India**

ICAR-NBAIR organized an online webinar as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on 06 October 2021 at 15.30 hrs. One hundred participants from ICAR institutes, AICRP (BC), State Agricultural Universities and Zoological Survey of India attended the webinar. Dr. Kesavan Subaharan, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NBAIR welcomed the speaker and participants. Dr. M. Nagesh (Director Acting, ICAR-NBAIR) in his introductory remarks stressed the importance of taxonomic studies to address the problems posed by alien invasives entering India. The need to understand the functional diversity of insects for their effective utilization was highlighted in his remarks. This followed by a talk on 'Taxonomic diversity vis-a-vis functional diversity in insects - Back to basics but looking forward' by Dr. (Smt.) Dhriti Banerjee, Director, ZSI, Kolkata. Prior to her talk she lauded the efforts taken by ICAR-NBAIR in taking forward the studies on insect diversity that would benefit the country. She expressed that ICAR NBAIR and ZSI should work in tandem, and this would yield better results to serve the community. In her lecture she elaborated the research and activities carried out at ZSI and its regional centers across the country in survey, exploration, and monitoring of faunal

diversity in various states, ecosystems and protected areas of India. The online database viz., Species page of fauna of India, Geo-spatial database and ZSI type specimen repository were introduced to the participants. The role of ZSI in the preparation of red data book was discussed. In her talk, she briefed upon the research activities being taken up by their 'Centre on disease vectors' in the lines of faunal inventorization of mosquito vectors, advance real time surveillance system and utilization of essential oils in the management of vectors. The molecular tools used to decipher the gut microbiome in Thysanoptera using next generation sequencing carried out by ZSI was discussed. The problems associated with digitization of insect museum specimens and need to quantify the biodiversity of insects in agro-ecosystems was deliberated. The talk was followed by a discussion on key issues like the establishment of synergy between the ICAR NBAIR and ZSI to address the gaps in taxonomic studies. Dr. Abraham Verghese former Director, ICAR NBAIR mooted the idea of establishing a regional centre of ZSI in Karnataka. Among the other participants who participated in the discussion were Dr Chandish R. Ballal and Dr. N. Bakthavatsalam Former

Directors of ICAR-NBAIR and the researchers from other institutes. Dr. M. Nagesh in his concluding remarks agreed upon the need to have closer interaction between the researchers at ICAR NBAIR and ZSI to bring about a synergy in insect taxonomy related works.

Dr. Sunil Joshi, HOD, GCC, ICAR NBAIR proposed vote of thanks. The program was organized and coordinated by Dr. Kesavan Subaharan, Dr. Amala Udayakumar and Dr. M. Pratheepa.



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