

## **Editorial**

### **Climate, paid publications, *Trichogramma*.....**

The hottest year, 2023 has receded and the advent of 2024 is being heralded. War cries are abuzz across Middle East to East Europe to Russia. As though these explosions don't influence climate change, the humble coal of India is being pointed at! Come to think of it, the barrage of bombshells and missiles, certainly affect flying and nesting vertebrates and invertebrates – sadly nobody talks about it, but we strongly echo our concern.



Climate spikes are going to be common. An encore of 2015 floods, battered the Chennai city in south India this quarter. When familiar places are hit, we empathize more. Around the same time Selangor in Malaysia- where my favourite Selangor Wildlife sanctuary is located was also affected by floods. So was it, four months after Typhoon Mawar, hit Guam, an island of US territory, the Tropical Storm Bolaven headed for Guam in October, 2023. Guam is a beautiful island in the Pacific and I had the opportunity to spend a transition stop-over here, while flying from Honolulu to Tokyo, way back in 1994, almost 30 years ago! Climate spikes make such islands vulnerable. Incidentally in Guam, for ento-enthusiasts, the fruit-sucking moth, *Eudocima phalonia* is a menace.

The Editors of *Insect Environment* (IE) could personally go to Dr. M. S. Swaminathan's residence in Chennai to pay our tributes to the departed soul. From the word go, Dr. Swaminathan was a supporter of *Insect Environment*. We reference below a message he articulated when we restarted the journal post-covid.

<p>So next time you, see something 'insecty' in the field or laboratory, or even in your house or garden; some peculiar occurrence or an invasive's threat, think of IE for your communication and documentation. For the smart phone geek, catch an insect on your mobile, while on the go; send it across to our photo-feature gallery, "Insect Lens", with a short account of the place (geo-coordinates) etc. Before I sign off a special thanks to <u>Dr. M S Swaminathan</u>, the doyen of green revolution in India, for his good wishes for this re-launch issue. On behalf of the Editorial Team I thank all our distinguished Editorial Advisors for agreeing to be our support. They are all accomplished writers and editors.</p> <p>The next issue, Volume 23 (December) 2020 is on the anvil. We will again meet at that! Till then cheers!</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Dr Abraham Verghese</b> Editor-in-Chief</p>	
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Dr. T. M Manjunath is certainly in the forefront of biological control movement and commercial insectary in India. His considered views on the much-hyped *Trichogramma*, on the rice borer in the pages of this issue is well worth reading. Thank you Dr. Manjunath for the correct perspective assigned.

AVIAN Trust, the publisher of *Insect Environment*, held a grand Award Ceremony on 16 December 2023 to award and encourage naturalists and plant protectionists- from students to officials. The Chief Guest was Dr. S.V. Suresha, Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture Sciences, Bangalore. The photo gallery in this issue on the award function speaks.

A report says that Indian scientists spent \$17 million in the year 2020 for scientific publications. Wow! The craze (and need) for promotions, awards and doctoral/post-doctoral acceptance are driving us mad! Publish (whichever way) or perish is getting ingrained in us. But who gets the last laugh? of course, the international publishing business houses. Its time we delink honest research endeavors from impact factor journal and business! The floodgates of Artificial Intelligence is again a fierce game-changer. If not used ethically, fake data and deepfake would overwhelm us.

We thank all our readers (>6000!), authors and photographers for being part of this Insect popularizing movement- the *Insect Environment*, India's *only* research news and blog journal. And, we wish all of you a very profitable new year- to you and your families!

***Dr Abraham Verghese***

***Editor-In-Chief***



*Insect Environment and AVIAN Trust  
wishes all of you a very academically  
rewarding 2024*