



Editorial

Welcome to the third volume of the CEiBa newsletter.

The year 2020 started with a shocking surprise by Novel Coronavirus-2019 (COVID-19 / (SARS-CoV-2). The local infection from Wuhan city in China devastatingly swept the globe within three months raising the death toll nearly 45,000 and infected persons ~ 8,96,000 (WHO, 2nd April, 2020). COVID-19 outbreak wreaked havoc in the social-political and economic arena which has been felt at all levels from global to our home. At this time of hardship, when everybody is trying to cope with this unimaginable situation we offer you a new issue with freshly brewed articles, wild food info, and snippets. We anticipate our newsletter will be a close companion for your quality time, will enrich you about the facts hitherto less known or under-explored, and will hone our knowledge-base to handle unprecedented incidences in the future.

An article on functional diversity, i.e., varieties of functions occurring in the natural world appears first. The gradual shift of biodiversity research from species to function-centric queries mostly driven by researchers' unwavering quest to understand the biodiversity-ecosystem function relationship. Given the ongoing global change in climate, land use and resource use, understanding the functional role of the ecosystem and its' changing pattern under perturbations becomes inevitable. The article casts light on this aspect in simpler terms and drawing examples from the real world. Following the spirit, our second article tells about the ritualistic association of leafy greens with the Bengali society, a common practice of eastern India and Bangladesh. The authors nicely blend the cultural practices, historical perspectives, nutritional and medicinal aspects of leafy greens to highlight the importance of traditional practices in present-day lifestyle.

The wild food section describes the members of *Meyna*, *Mimusops*, *Morus* and *Myrica* distributed across India from the Himalayan mountains to the Southern Peninsula. Widely known for their medicinal and other uses, the dietary importance of these plants is yet to get a strong foothold in the mainstream Indian society.

Likewise, snippets provide glimpses of fall colour, beats from the bees, duck from Bombay and traditional rice from bamboo to unveil the fascinating realms of the natural world entangled with diverse culture.

We shall tide over the Corona phase in course of time; the world may come back to its usual rhythm but we should not forget the lessons learned from this disaster. I hope these lessons will help us to act wisely in the future.

Wish you all follow the safety rules to protect yourself from COVID-19 infection. It is time to be together and act responsibly to save the very basic foundation of humanity.

Happy reading.

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