



Editorial

A warm welcome to the season of leaf fall and festivity.

Like seasonal changes, our focus has also shifted to the world of insects and mammals. This issue has interesting observations on termites, mud-dauber, and bats. In tropical countries like India, termite mound is prominently visible across land use types, especially in rural and semi-urban areas. These miniature hillocks have socio-religious relevance but hardly considered as a subject of detailed investigation to understand the social life of insects. Nikita Zachariah in her illustrious article describes this fascinating architectural wonder with its' construction details as well as environmental suitability. This article presents a first-hand information on the chronosequence of mound formation, division of labour, and resource allocation strategy among the termites captured through video recording. Our second article is on nest making by mud-daubers, a very common insect hovering around us. Although a little irritating to many due to their habitat preference at our houses, a close observation on their tireless effort on nest making enlightened us about the marvel of insect power. This article is an account of a very young observer who has meticulously followed the house building process for several hours and made some interesting observation on earthworm cast as a sought-after nest building material hitherto not documented. Apart from the insect world, bat, a comparatively higher order member of the food web has also marked its appearance in this issue. In addition to their inevitable presence in dusk time, in folklore, and in conceptualization of evil power, they are also into so many other things around us. The discussion here gives us a succinct idea on their role in ecological functions, agricultural improvements, as a bioindicator, and as a model system for medical research.

The trails of main articles are followed by snippets as usual - where you'll get fantastic tumbleweeds, Monalisa by *E.coli*, soundscape biodiversity, tasty black meat, and heritage toys. These colourful fabrics of the natural world would definitely motivate us to explore more, to learn more, and to be sensitive to this fragile blue earth - all to satisfy your quest.

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