

Conference Report ICBBBF 2023

International conference on Biology, Biodiversity and Biotechnology of Fungi (ICBBBF – 2023) and first annual meeting of association of fungal biologists was conducted on 1st and 2nd December 2023.

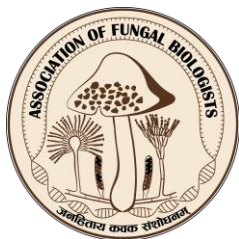
Held at SIES College of Arts, Science and Commerce (Empowered Autonomous), Sion (West), Mumbai. The conference was organised by Department of Botany, SIES College, in collaboration with Association of Fungal Biologists (AFB). Sponsored by Life Insurance Corporation of India, LIC Housing Finance Ltd., IDBI Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, Thane Bharat Sahakari bank, M Tech Pvt Ltd., Prerana enterprises, Mr. Raj Kumar, Mr. Srinivas Tutakne.

Day One of the conference: Friday, 1st December, 2023

- Registration: Handled by Ms. Vinaya Patil
- Breakfast at 8:30 am
- Inauguration at 9:30 am

Inaugural Ceremony:

- Dr. Neeraja Tutkane: Master of ceremony
- Lighting of lamp Dr. Uma Shankar, Dr. Sunil Deshmukh, Dr. Ravindra Bagool, Dr. Narendra Atri
- Ganesh stavan 'Omkar swaroopa' was rendered by Ms. Nandana Prabhu
- Inaugural address was given by Principal Dr. Uma Shankar
- Principal's address: SIES is celebrated its Diamond jubilee, in 2022, it soon to get a University, SIES has believed in openness for innovation. Dept of Botany was supported by dept of Environmental sciences. We are here to discuss, deliberate and foster collaborations. Philosophy is mother of all subject.
- Convenor of the conference: Dr. Mahavir Gosavi explained the concept note elaborating upon the Biology, Biodiversity and Biotechnology of Fungi, concluding that Fungi are at the interface of life and death.
- Dr. Sunil Kumar Deshmukh, Chairman AFB explained the Idea behind the formation of association of fungal biologists.
- Felicitation of Dr. R. G. Bagool (Founder, Association of Fungal Biologists), Dr. Narendra Singh Atri (Professor, Former, Head and Dean, Department of Botany, Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab), Dr. Sunil Kumar Deshmukh (President, Association of Fungal Biologists), Mr. Raj Kumar (Former MD, Life Insurance Corporation of India) and sponsor representatives was carried out next.
- Vote of thanks by Dr. Neeraja Tutkane.



- Keynote address given by speaker Dr. Narendra Singh Atri who was introduced by Dr. Pramod Ghoghre (Head, Department of Microbiology, SIES College)
- In his address, Dr. N. S. Atri spoke about diversity of mushrooms, truffles, from chicken like edible mushrooms to poisonous and from Himalayan Viagra to hallucinogenic effects of fungi. Ended his note saying that there is a lot scope for students, researchers and entrepreneurs if they explore the world of mushrooms and their diversity.

Technical Session I

- Conducted by Mrs. Sakshi Raj Kumar
- Chairperson: Dr. Belle D. Shenoy
- Co-chairperson: Dr. Vishnu Vaze

Online Lead lecture I

- Dr. Fung Shin Yee [Medicinal Mushroom Research Group (MMRG), Department of Molecular Medicine, University Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia] from spoke about Tiger milk mushroom which a rare and costly fungus. But now being easily grown on agar and rice. Aqua cool extract technology was developed her team. They have carried out multifaceted clinical research has been done on the tiger milk mushroom.

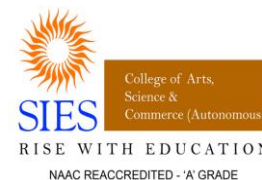
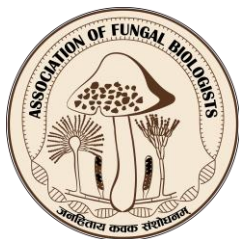
Oral Presentations begin:

- Abha Marathe
- Ankita Raul
- Aqsa Naik
- Archana Ghugal
- Vinod Kumar Kushwaha
- Jyoti Vishwakarma
- Manasi Kamat
- Dr. Mona Kejariwal

Poster Session went on simultaneously conducted efficiently by Ms. Sandra Balakrishnan.

Hospitality was effectively managed by Mrs. Ruchika Dani.

Lunch break



Technical session II

- Conducted by Ms. Snehal Unde
- Chairperson: Dr. S. K. Singh
- Co-chairperson: Dr. Kavita Rambal

Lead lecture I

Leveraging coalescent methods to redefine species boundaries

- Dr. Belle D. Shenoy (Principal Scientist, CSIR - National Institute of Oceanography Regional Centre, Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, India) spoke on redefining the ideology of fungal classification. He hinted at paradigm shift in taxonomy.

Lead lecture II

Applications of fungal biopolymers and bio-composites

- Dr. Shilpa Verekar, (Parle Agro Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai) spoke about exploring fungi for their potential applications in making bio-composite materials.

Expert Talk 1: Insights into the Fungal World

Morphotaxonomic and phylogenetic studies on Saprolegniales

- Dr. P. N. Singh (National Fungal Culture Collection of India, Biodiversity and Palaeobiology Group, MACS - Agharkar Research Institute, Pune) spoke about the need for both morphotaxonomic and phylogenetic studies on fungi, specifically focussing on Saprolegniales

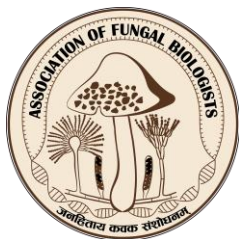
Expert Talk 2: Insights into the Fungal World

Truffles beyond culinary appeal

- Dr. Nirali Dedhia (Assistant Professor, Department of Food Engineering & Technology, Institute of Chemical Technology, Matunga (E), Mumbai) spoke about variety of truffle mushrooms and how truffles are more lucrative. Matcha tea as super antioxidant.

Session was followed by 10 online oral presentations:

- Madhulika Singh
- Pallavi Champaneria
- Yogesh Urdukhe
- Sunil Bhagat
- Ratan Sarnaik
- Darshana Patil
- Shoaib Lone



- Tejal Rikame
- Vanita Awari
- Vaishali Basugade

This session was followed by the first annual meeting of the Association of Fungal Biologists, where the future activities of the association were discussed. The deliberations were successful.

Day Two of the conference: Saturday, 2nd December, 2023

Technical Session III

- Conducted by Ms. Snehal Unde
- Chaired by Dr. Shilpa Verekar
- Co-chaired by Dr. Vaishali Nirmalkar

Lead lecture

- Dr. Sunil Kumar Deshmukh (President, AFB) spoke on Natural colours from endophytic fungi. He explained strategy for enhanced production, encapsulation, pros and cons of different methods.

Lead lecture

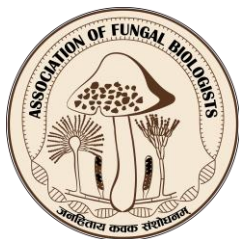
- Prof. Susanna Badalyan (Professor and Head of Laboratory of Fungal Biology and Biotechnology, Institute of Biology, Yerevan State University, Armenia). Her topic was Asexual Reproduction in Agaricomycetes Fungi (Phylum Basidiomycota). She spoke in detail about nomenclature, taxonomy and systematics of fungi.

Lead lecture

- Green Myco-nano-biomaterials for the Management of Pathogens and Fitness of the Plants: Perspectives and Pitfalls by Dr. Mahendra Rai (Department of Chemistry and Pharmacology, Federal University of Piaui (UFPI), Teresina, Brazil). He cautioned about growing agrochemicals market and hence pollution. Myco-synthesized (nanoparticles synthesized from fungi) nanoparticles are better as compared to phyto or chemo-synthesized nanoparticles.

Session was followed by 13 oral presentations:

- Monica Sharma
- Monika Dhorkule
- Nalini Singh
- Pandurang Bagam
- Pramod Kamble
- Saif Khan



- Sayali Khedekar
- Shiwali Rana
- Sushant Bornak
- V. V. Kamble
- Vaishali Nirmalkar
- Ashwini Deshpande
- Yogesh Patil

Lunch break

Technical session IV

- Conducted by Mrs. Sakshi Raj Kumar
- Chaired by Dr. N. S. Atri
- Co-chaired by Dr. Lal Saheb Yadav

Lead Lecture I

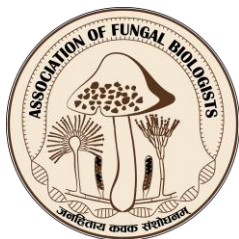
- Dr. Sanjay Singh (National Fungal Culture Collection of India – A National Facility, Biodiversity & Palaeobiology Group, MACS – Agharkar Research Institute, Pune) talked about Conservation of Mycological Heritage of India and Their Industrial Applicability. He talked about the need for preservation of Fungal diversity which are the goldmines for inventions in biotechnology. He also explained the importance of Fungal Culture collections and urged the researchers and students to submit their newly discovered fungi at these culture collection centres.

Online Lead Lecture II

- Dr. D. Jayarama Bhat (Distinguished Scientist Fellow, College of Science, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; Formerly, Professor of Botany, Goa University, Goa, India) spoke about Taxonomic understanding of conidial fungi. He emphasized on the need to provide molecular phylogenetic backup. One fungus one name he advocated.

Expert Talk 2: Insights into the Fungal World

- Dr Rohit Sharma (Center for Biodiversity Exploration and Conservation (CBEC), Jabalpur– 482 021, Madhya Pradesh, India) Diversity, Phylogeny, Bioprospecting of Cultivable Fungi from Fambong Lho Wildlife Sanctuary & Antimicrobial Potential of *Simplicillium lamellicola* FFL 21.



Valedictory Lecture

- Prof. Sanjay Deshmukh (Former, Vice-Chancellor University of Mumbai, and Prof. of Life Sciences) graced the occasion. He was welcomed by Principal Uma Shankar, SIES. In his Valedictory lecture, he compared each small contribution in the fungal world to the seven notes of symphony. He said, “we must, like conductor of orchestra, play the instruments of science to make symphony of life for betterment of the globe.”
- Prize distribution at the hands of Prof. Sanjay Deshmukh and Dr. R. G. Bagool (Founder, AFB).

Winners of Prof. M. S. Patil Merit Award

- 1st prize Oral presentation: Dr. Shiwali Rana (Agharkar Research Institute, Pune)
- 2nd prize Oral presentation: Mr. Sushant Bornak (Rajaram College, Kolhapur)
- 1st prize Poster presentation: Ms. Mallika Suthar (Agharkar Research Institute, Pune)
- 2nd prize Poster presentation: Ms. Waheedunnisa Chaudri (SIES College)

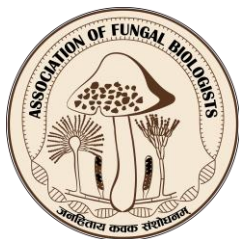
Winners of P. S. Gharse Memorial Special Prize

- 1st prize for Poster presentation: Ms. Shubhada Phopale (Uttan Vanoushadhi Sanshodhan Sanstha)
- 2nd prize for poster presentation: Dr. Deepak Shelke (Department of Botany, Amruteshwar Arts, Commerce and Science College, Vinzar, Velha, Pune)

Vote of thanks proposed by Mrs. Ashwini Deshpande, co-convenor, ICBBBF - 2023.

Technical Report:

- The total number of participants registered was 120 out of which 80 attended and about 24 joined online.
- The total number of abstracts received was 72: 36 for oral and 36 for poster.
- 23 presented in person and 10 presented using virtual mode. The total number of posters presented were 32 out of 36.
- Technical support by given by Ms. Priyanka Mahanty; effectively managed. Certificate distribution was handled by Ms. Vinaya Patil, Ms. Ruchika Dani, Ms. Sandra Balakrishnan, Mr. Chiranjeev Roy and Ms. Ankita Raul.
- The messages, forewords, and abstracts were compiled in a very well-designed book sponsored by LIC Housing Finance Ltd. It was given along with a beautiful and visually appealing calendar, courtesy Department of Botany, SIES, in beautifully designed shoulder bag that was sponsored Mr. Srinivas Tutakne. The conference received funding from silver sponsor LIC of India, supported by LIC Housing Finance, IDBI Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, Thane Bharat Sahakari Bank,



M-Tech Pvt. Ltd., and Prerana Enterprises. Mr. Raj Kumar (Former, Managing Director, Life Insurance Corporation of India) helped to get the funding.

- The conference was conducted in hybrid mode in Prof. P S. Ramaswamy mini auditorium situated on the ground floor of the college. The poster presentation was in the adjoining multimedia room. Both the arrangements were excellent. The washrooms were clean and close by. The entire arrangements gave a positive feeling of oneness under the leadership of respected principal. The faculty members and student volunteers were always attentive and warm. The non-teaching staff too was very helpful.
- Hospitality arrangements were in open space and Gymkhana. The food was served by Mr. Kalpit Vaidya with a family touch and was as diverse as the papers and posters presented in the conference.

Head, Department of Botany and Convenor, ICBBBF 2023,

Dr. Mahavir Gosavi

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