



Gaurav Singh, PhD Researcher

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Gaurav Singh, PhD researcher from Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, Western Sydney University, Australia. His PhD research is part of a broader project concerning the pollination potential of Australian stingless bees in key crops such as avocado, cucumber, litchi, macadamia, mango and strawberry. His work focuses on identifying key flower visitors on mango in Australia and their potential as mango pollinators. Aim of the work is to generate a comprehensive understanding of native pollinators of mango, their foraging behaviour, spatial distribution, pollination efficiency and pollination effectiveness. Addressing these key issues is expected to promote stingless beekeeping in Australia and increase the likelihood of using managed as well as wild stingless bees for mango pollination.



N. Ramya Sri, PhD Scholar

**Department of Entomology, College of
Agriculture, Rajendranagar, PJTSAU,
Hyderabad, India**

N. Ramya Sri is a PhD scholar at Department of Entomology, College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar, PJTSAU, Hyderabad. Her research work is on “Studies on Bioecology of Pink bollworm, *Pectinophora gossypiella* (Saunders) (Gelechiidae: Lepidoptera) on Cotton” under the supervision of Prof. T. Uma Maheswari. Aim of her work is to study the carryover of pink bollworm during offseason, for which biology and morphometrics of pink bollworm was carried on cotton and its alternate hosts. Diapause studies were carried out by her by

maintaining different temperature and photoperiod in BOD's and year-round monitoring of pink bollworm at ginning mills and surrounding fields at 5, 10 and 15 km radius. Further, genetic variation in pink bollworm collected from 16 locations all over India was studied using universal primer (mtCO1). In future, she would like to continue her research in chemical ecology by conducting olfactometer experiments using different host plant volatiles to study the preference of pink bollworm to different host plants.



Vrunda Shrihari Thakare, Ph.D. Researcher,
Department of Agricultural Entomology,
Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola,
Maharashtra, India.

Vrunda Thakare is a Ph.D. researcher, working on “Exploration of resistant sources in brinjal to *Leucinodes orbonalis* Guenee” under the guidance of Dr. D. B. Udirwade (Head, Department of Agril. Entomology, Dr. PDKV, Akola). She is working on the aspect of host plant resistance which is one of the cornerstones of environmentally benign pest management systems. In this context, she conducted field screening of twenty-two genotypes of brinjal (13 university genotypes, 8 hybrids and 1 local cultivar) for their reaction against *L. orbonalis*. Then the crossing programme of selected genotypes of brinjal with wild relative has been executed with an objective to transfer resistant trait. Then the obtained F1 and selected promising genotypes will be screened in next season. She is understanding biophysical characteristics as well as biochemical constituents of selected genotypes of brinjal against *L. orbonalis*. In addition, she is working on the digestive enzyme activity (amylase, protease and lipase) of *L. orbonalis* collected from particular genotype in order to correlate them with infestation level. It will help in selecting inhibitors against these digestive enzymes as they are potential target for pest management. She is also carrying out molecular characterization using SSR and ISSR primers for assessing the genetic diversity in selected genotypes of brinjal along with wild relatives, which is essential for utilization of germplasm in resistance breeding programme.

Ms. Arya P. S., Mr. Mogili Ramaiah, Ms. Aparna S, Student Associate Editors of IE compiled the information for this section.