

FIRST INDIAN ENTOMOLOGIST PHOTO CONTEST

The Indian entomologist photo contest aims to encourage insect photography among photographers, professionals, amateur entomologist and the layman. The central theme of the first episode of the photo contest was 'Insects and aspects related to insect life'.

With these objective entries were invited during December 2019. Each participant was to submit one good photograph which met a few prescribed standards along with the filled in application form in which the participant had to furnish his/her details, caption, description, specifications of the photograph and also a declaration on the ingenuity of the photograph. We received a total from 105 entries which were screened first for the prescribed standards and overall quality of the image. Final evaluation was done for 28 images by a committee of three independent members in the presence of the three editorial board members based on the following criteria quality (clarity, lighting, depth of field, composition), relevance of the subject matter (theme, rareness of subjects), creativity and originality. To ensure a blind review the details of the photographer was hidden and the evaluators were only presented with the photograph, caption, description and technical specifications.

- The first place was won by Shashidharswami Hiremath (Shashidhar.ph@gmail.com) who captured a wasp in action near a flower at Kadaramandalagi (Byadgi-Taluk, Haveri-Dist, Karnataka) (Magazine cover page).
- The second place was won by Alfred Daniel J (danieljalfred@gmail.com) for his photograph which portrayed a robber fly preying on a hopper with a caption – Robbing the hop(p)e(r). Image was captured at Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh.
- The third place was shared by Amith Kiran Menezes (amithsonu@gmail.com) who captured a well-lit jewel beetle at Bangalore University, Karnataka and Sailaja Vallabuni (sailajavallabuni@gmail.com) who captured a wasp and sunbird in action near a trickling water source at Forest College and Research Institute, Siddipet, Telangana.

All together we got an overwhelming response from the participants with many good quality entries.

BUG STUDIO ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Mr. S. S. Anooj



Mrs. S. Rajna





First prize, Shashidharswamy Hiremath, 'Yellow banded Ichneuimonid wasp visit flower', Haveri, Karnataka, Nikon D 300S with Sigma 150 mm F-2.8 Macro, shutter speed 1/320, ISO 640, aperture f/13, focal length 150 mm.



Second prize, Alfred Daniel J, 'Robbing the hop(p)e(r)', Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh, Panasonic FZ 300 with Raynox DCR250, shutter speed 1/200, ISO 100, aperture f/4, Focal length 28.7 mm.



Third prize (Shared), Sailaja Vallabuni, 'Water source is a ray of hope for all life', Mulugu, Telangana, Nikon D500 with Tamron 150-600mm, shutter speed 1/3333, ISO 1250, aperture f/7.1, focal length 500 mm.



Third prize (Shared), Amith Kiran Menezes, 'Metallic wood boring beetle', Bangalore University, Bengaluru, Canon 700D with Canon 100 mm F-2.8 Macro, shutter speed 1/125, ISO 400, aperture f/13, focal length 100 mm.