

**MANGALI ASHWINI**

DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY, NAVSARI AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, NAVSARI, GUJARAT

Mangali Ashwini is pursuing her Ph. D. from Department of Entomology, Navsari Agriculture University, Navsari, Gujarat. She is currently working on the biodiversity of Coccinellids in South Gujarat under the guidance of Dr. Abhishek Shukla (Professor & Head). Her focus of interest is to record the diversity of Coccinellids in different ecosystems along with the associated host plants and prey insects. She is also working on DNA barcoding and trying to establish evolutionary relationship among the Coccinellids. In addition, she is studying the biology of some of the dominant coccinellid species. She believes that nature, with a huge treasure of biodiversity, never fails to surprise us. It is always important to explore the natural enemies which can bring out new possibilities for effective control of insect pests. In future, she intends to carryout biosystematic studies in other insect groups along with molecular taxonomy.

**KARTHIK REDDY M**

NATIONAL PUSA COLLECTION, DIVISION OF ENTOMOLOGY, ICAR-INDIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, NEW DELHI

Karthik Reddy M is currently pursuing his M. Sc. from the Division of Entomology, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi. He is working on Biosystematics of subfamily Olethreutinae (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae) under the supervision of Dr. Shashank P R, Scientist, ICAR-IARI, Pusa, New Delhi. Tortricids are associated with various plants as stem-borers, leaf-miners, fruit-borers, seed-borers and gall-inducers, and some are considered as agricultural pests of international quarantine importance. Contrastingly, many olethreutine moth species are being continuously assessed for their role as biocontrol agents of weed species around the world. He has studied the olethreutine fauna of Southern Karnataka, giving emphasis to classical taxonomic characters and developed illustrated diagnostic keys for their easy identification. He has also generated DNA barcodes for some of the important agricultural pests and weed control agents of the subfamily Olethreutinae. He is interested to continue his future research in Lepidopterology focusing on the taxonomy, biology and host-association of economically important families.



SASHANKA SEKHAR DASH

DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY, COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, OUAT, BHUBANESWAR

Sashanka Sekhar Dash is pursuing his Ph. D. from the Department of Entomology, College of Agriculture, OUAT, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. He is currently working on Spatio-temporal changes in toxicity to different insecticides and enzymatic resilience factor in mango hopper under the guidance of Dr. Manoj Kumar Tripathy (Professor, Department of Entomology, College of Agriculture, OUAT, Bhubaneswar). Mango hopper is one of the most important sucking pests among the pest complex of mango in Odisha condition. To evaluate the efficacy of certain chemicals against mango hopper he is doing the LC₅₀ study over three different places in Odisha. Along with this he is also quantifying and studying the changes in the titers of detoxifying and protective enzymes present in mango hopper, after the insecticide spray. In future, he is interested to extend his work on toxicology, which is an important asset in pest management.



NEETHU ROY

DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, RAICHUR, KARNATAKA

Neethu Roy is pursuing her Ph. D. in Agricultural Entomology from University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur, Karnataka. Under the guidance of Dr. Arun Kumar Hosamani (Professor and Head, AICRP on Biological Control, Main Agriculture Research Station, UAS, Raichur, Karnataka), she is currently working on efficacy of the entomopathogenic fungus, *Metarhizium anisopliae* (Metchinkoff) Sorokin against tobacco caterpillar, *Spodoptera litura* (Fab.) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae). *S. litura* is a major and polyphagous pest infesting various crops in India. In order to overcome the negative effects of pesticides that are being targeted for this pest, she is working on native isolates of the naturally occurring fungi, *M. anisopliae* for controlling *S. litura* and also extracting a toxin from it, called destruxin. She is microencapsulating and gel formulating the fungal spores targeting to control *S. litura*. Besides, she is also studying the cuticle degrading enzymes of *M. anisopliae* which helps in degrading the cuticle of the host insect for attaining successful entry of the fungus. In future, she hopes to work on biological pest control using other species of insects (parasitoids and predators) and pathogens that will help to control insect pests in conjunction with other tools of pest management.

Mr. Kishore Chandra Sahoo, Ms. Akshatha, Mr. Sanath R M, Student Associate Editors of IE compiled the information for this section.