



MES Abasaheb Garware College
Karve road, Pune 46



Annasaheb Kulkarni Department of Biodiversity

The first newsletter of Annasaheb Kulkarni Department of Biodiversity covers the activities from July 2019 to December 2019. This newsletter entails highlights pertaining to guest lectures, field work/study tours, research and outreach.

Guest Lectures

1. Shirang Kulkarni from discussed about Crocodile culturing and conservation in the leather industry. This activity was designed to make the students aware of industry's approach towards biodiversity based business opportunity.



2. Dr. Shonil Bhagwat from Open University, UK discussed about cultural factors that influence the ecological dynamics of the Western Ghats. This session was an open session for which the students of all the life sciences departments of the college, teachers from other colleges and people from various institutes in Pune attended. It was well received by all.

Parent Teacher Meeting



Parent Teacher meeting for the parents of M.Sc. I was held on 28.09.2019. The rationale of the department, working and activities were explained to the parents. All the teaching staff was present for the PTM. Queries of the parents were also resolved during the meeting and we got a positive feedback from the parents on the activities of the department.

Study tours



Practical at Amboli Forest



Activities at Waghapur region

Outreach

Scientific outreach

- Talk by Dr. Dhanashree Paranjape at National Symposium on Avian Biology (7th to 10th December 2019). What's in the spot?: Do peacocks select display territories based on proximity to important resources?
- Poster presentation at ISEB1: Celebrating Ecology and Evolution in India (24th & 25th October 2019). To group or not to group: Does season and food provisioning affect group dynamics and parasite load in Indian Peafowl?
- Poster presentation at National Symposium on Avian Biology (7th to 10th December 2019). Decoding peafowl calls: Bioacoustic communication in free ranging Indian Peafowl Populations.

Social outreach

- Talk by Dr. Dhanashree Parajape at Rupa Rahul Bajaj Centre of Environment and Art (7th September 2019) on Peacocks and People: Consequences of Human-Animal Interactions.

Social outreach/recognition

- Student's participation in street play at MES AGC. The skit was on Environmental degradation by humans. M.Sc. I students participated in this activity, with a message to be wise on the use of natural resources.



Street play



Dr. Dhanashree Parajape conducting activity

- Dr. Ankur Patwardhan, Elsevier Green Challenge Awardee attended the Summer school at University of Luneberg, Germany in Sept. 2019.
- Dr. Ankur Patwardhan was felicitated by Maharashtra Vriksha Samvardhini as Young Naturalist, on 2nd October 2019
- Dr. Ankur Patwardhan guided the meeting at Pune Zilla Parishad regarding preparation of PBR on 30th December 2019. Members of Gram Panchayat, NGOs from Pune district and officials of ZP and Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board attended the meeting.
- Dr. Ankur Patwardhan attended the Plant Expert Committee meeting organised by MSBB on 19th October 2019
- Dr. Ankur Patwardhan was invited to give a talk on Biodiversity and Conservation at DY Patil College, Akurdi
- Dr. Ankur Patwardhan was invited as a keynote speaker at a seminar on New Trends in Environmental Science and Technology at Unik Lab, Pune on 24th July 2019
- Dr. Ankur Patwardhan guided MES AGC Junior college NSS volunteers regarding Man-Nature relationship on 24 December 2019.



- Poster Presentation by Shravani Mangeshkar (M.Sc II) in National Conference on Aquatic ecosystem sustainability and conservation, at IISER, Pune (20-21 December 2019) and Anuja
- Poster presentation by Anuja Vartak (M.Sc. II) in ISEB conference at JNCASR, Bengaluru (24-25 October 2019)
- Anuja Vartak (M.Sc. II) secured support from the Small Grant Program of Mangrove Cell, for her M.Sc. Dissertation.
- Research paper entitled, 'Exploring the diversity and distribution pattern of Diatoms from Pawana River, Pune, Maharashtra', by Shrushti Patil (M.Sc. II), accepted for publication in Journal of Environmental Research and Development
- Research paper entitled, 'Understanding the role of fungal diversity associated with carnivorous plant root', by Yogeshwari Hivarkar (M.Sc. II), accepted for publication in Journal of Environmental Research and Development



Photo credit: Niket Alashi (M.Sc I)

The Deccan banded gecko is a terrestrial gecko from the genus *Crytodactylus*. It is endemic to the Western Ghats. It is characterized by a series of yellow cross bands on the body. These geckos are nocturnal, forest dwelling and secretive in nature. Tropical deciduous to semi evergreen forests being the preferable habitat for this gecko, is currently seeing conversion for agriculture and tourist-related development thus acting as a threat to the specie

Poster prepared by Vighnesh Shinde (M.Sc. I) for awareness generation regarding the hazards of plastic straw

