

PROJECT PROFILE

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| Title of the Project | : | Insect pest complexes on medicinal plants and the influence of pest damage on their active principles |
| Principle Investigator | : | Dr. John Prasanth Jacob |
| Co Investigators | : | Dr. Rekha Warriier |
| Duration of Project (Start & End) | : | 5 years (01-03-2014 to 31-01-2019) |
| Objectives | : | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine the major species and seasonal abundance of insect pests and their natural enemies associated with 5 medicinal plant species namely <i>Gloriosa superba</i>, <i>Withania somnifera</i>, <i>Cassia angustifolia</i>, <i>Aloe vera</i>, <i>Mentha arvensis</i>. 2. Develop and test alternatives to chemical pesticides, eg., botanicals, microbial agents, oils or soaps, etc., for control of pest species that are identified as economically important. 3. Determine the influence of insect damage on active principles. |
| Funding agency | : | National Medicinal Plants Board |
| Summary/Achievements | : | Periodic pest detection survey in medicinal plant beds of <i>Gloriosa superba</i> , <i>Withania somnifera</i> , <i>Senna angustifolia</i> , <i>Aloe vera</i> and <i>Mentha arvensis</i> in particular and 31 other medicinal plants carried out in Tamilnadu and Kerala. Periodicity of pest incidence, intensity of attack and nature of damage identified. Biotic and abiotic factors predisposing the plants to the attack of pests studied. A Pest Calendar for 36 medicinal plants prepared. Phytochemical analysis of plant parts for the level of active principles in pest free and infested plants during different seasons analysed |