

blages recovered from the analysis of spider webs do not reflect the factual composition of local vegetation of the study area, so far as the tree taxa are concerned.

On the other hand, the ground vegetation is honestly portrayed by the encounter of good number of Tubuliflorae, Poaceae, Chenop/Am, Caryophyllaceae, *Xanthium*, *C. frutescens* and Brassicaceae. However, the outstanding high frequencies of Lamiaceae cf. *Pogostemon* and *Hyp-tis* and Asteraceae (Tubuliflorae) cf. *Blumea* and *Eclipta* in almost all the samples have been noticed, except SW-4. This might have occurred owing to charging of the local environment with the pollen of the tall herbaceous members of these families, which were seen gregariously and in full bloom at the study site while sampling was carried out. Ferns, which occur abundantly along the adjoining stream banks are marked by the sporadic retrieval of trilete spores. Their poor representation could be ascribed to the prevailing damp condition around the sampling provenance, which inhibits their easy dispersal by wind.

In addition to the different types of pollen traps, spider webs have also been proved to be an efficient natural trap of airborne pollen grains and spores, which reflects almost the local vegetation of the study area. The spider-web samples also show variability in terms of the pollen assemblages because of their position, size and age. Wind speed and humidity are other local factors that affect the retention of pollen grains and spores in webs. Further research looking into the causes behind this is required. However, the study could also entail the evaluation of the allergenicity of different pollen grains and spores in the area of investigation, causing asthma, hay fever, dermatitis and other disorders. Allergic diseases can be controlled and symptoms can be minimized if we know what triggers them¹². Thus, the study may be useful for allergologists too in establishing a right diagnosis¹³ and ultimately enable an improved quality of life for the inhabitants of the area of investigation. The results of the study may be

used in public awareness programmes about the health hazards caused by pollen grains.

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Erratum

Environmental significance of raised rann sediments along the margins of Khadir, Bhanjada and Kuar Bet islands in Great Rann of Kachchh, Western India

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1. Page 1431, in Figure 3; 1181 ± 1427 yrs BP should be read as 11181 ± 1427 yrs BP.
2. Page 1433, col 2, line 1; 1181 ± 1427 yrs BP should be read as 11181 ± 1427 yrs BP.