



## Science Academies' Virtual Refresher Course on Taxonomy of Cryptogams their Sustainable Utilization and Conservation in Climate Change

at

PG and Research Department of Botany, Vivekananda College of Arts and Sciences for  
Women (Autonomous), Elayampalayam 637 205, Tiruchengode, Tamil Nadu

4–17 March 2021

Sponsored by

Indian Academy of Sciences, Bengaluru  
Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi  
The National Academy of Sciences, India, Prayagaraj

A Refresher Course in 'Taxonomy of Cryptogams their Sustainable Utilization and Conservation in Climate Change' will be held at PG and Research Department of Botany, Vivekananda College of Arts and Sciences for Women (Autonomous), Elayampalayam, Tiruchengode, Tamil Nadu for two weeks from 4 to 17 March 2021 for the benefit of faculty involved in teaching undergraduate and postgraduate courses. Cryptogams are a group of lower plants, which do not produce flower or fruit, but reproduces through spores. The group contains algae, fungi, lichens and ferns, and poorly understood and less studied in the country as compared to higher plants. Cryptogams play pivotal roles in the formation and stabilizations of soils, decomposition of dead organic matter and nutrient cycling, forming symbiotic relationships with most vascular plants and are an important food source for many other organisms. Cryptogams also store carbon and facilitate carbon storage in the soil. The soil crust developed by Cryptogams also provides a protective layer that slows moisture loss and protect the soil from erosion, while the physical structure and nutrients available in the crust creates suitable conditions for the germination and growth of higher plants.

Institutions offering plant taxonomy in their life science programmes have frequently expressed constraints for good facilities in conducting on molecular techniques due to lack of financial assistance. To address the above gap especially with regard to Cryptogams, the present refresher course is proposed. The course is useful for colleges and universities offering course(s) in Plant Taxonomy in India.

Applications are invited from teachers with experience in teaching undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Life Sciences. Maximum 35 applications will be considered and teachers who wish to participate in the Refresher Course may apply through proper channel with the following details: name, date of birth, gender, e-mail, official and residential addresses, telephone numbers, academic qualifications, subjects taught, affiliation, positions held and tenure. It is also essential to submit a brief statement of purpose (500 words) as to why they think the Course will help improve their classroom teaching of Life Sciences.

Applications should be submitted ONLINE by clicking on the following link:  
<https://web-japps.ias.ac.in:8443/Refreshcourse/USC.jsp>

A print copy of the application must also be sent by speed post forwarded by the head of the institution. It should reach the Course Coordinator before **15 February 2021**.

**Course Director: Prof. (Dr) Dalip Kumar Upreti**, FNA, FNASc, FES, FISEB, CSIR-Emeritus Scientist, CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute, Rana Pratap Marg, Lucknow 226 001, Uttar Pradesh.

**Course Coordinator: Dr M. Senthilkumar**, M.Sc., M.Phil., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Coordinaor-Biodiversity Division and IPR Cell and PG and Research Departmetn of Botany, Vivekanandha College of Arts and Sciences for Women (Autonomous), Elayampalayam, Tiruchengode 637 205, Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu, India (e-mail: [drmsenthilkumar@vicas.org](mailto:drmsenthilkumar@vicas.org)).