

*Aasheesh Pittie*

8-2-545 "Prem Parvat", Road No.7, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad - 500 034. India.

Phone: Off:040-591991 Res: 040-315683

25 June, 1995

Dr. Abraham Verghese  
Senior Scientist (Entomology)  
Indian Institute of Horticultural Research  
Hesseraghatta Lake P.O.  
BANGALORE 560089

Dear Dr. Verghese,

I have just received a copy of the inaugural issue of INSECT ENVIRONMENT and cannot tell you how happy I am that such a publication has at last seen the light of day! Congratulations to all the people responsible for having made it possible!

I take the liberty of writing a few thoughts on the publication and its contents, emphasizing what you have mentioned in the last line of your editorial "to popularize insect study and conservation".

\* Entomology (do we have to live with such forbidding words?) is not terribly popular with people at large and I dare say that most humans dislike 'creepy crawlies'. I feel that INSECT ENVIRONMENT should be made into a banner publication which promotes insect appreciation and dispels insectophobia. At least one (I am sure it is not too much to ask for) column should appear regularly on our neighborhood insects, written in a popular (though not deviating from scientific facts) vein.

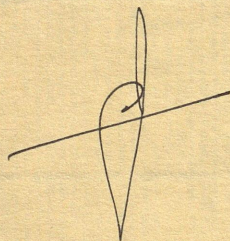
\* Birds have become relatively 'popular' and birdwatching is an active pastime of many among us. Good literature is also available locally on our feathered bipeds. But this is not the case with insects. INSECT ENVIRONMENT could begin a field-guide type of column on insects, perhaps beginning with those wonderful and visible insects - the butterflies and dragonflies - which are commonly found in our land. The fact remains that such a venture becomes boring if unaccompanied with illustrations. Line drawings should be good enough (perhaps using 'pointers' like bird-books do to highlight prominent features) to begin with till such future date when the publication has grown and readership or editorial policy demands color!

I firmly believe that our environment can be preserved only by wide publicity of all its aspects among the general public and scientists have to do this. In wildness and in appreciation of that wildness lies the preservation of our world.



With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature consisting of a vertical line with a loop on the left side and a horizontal line crossing it.

**INSECT STUDY AND CONSERVATION NETWORK**  
(ISCN)

13/7

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Editors : Dr. ABRAHAM VERGHESE Dr. A. K. CHAKRAVARTHY

POST (AIR)

Dear Ashesh,

Thanks for  
your encouraging  
letter of 25 June. We  
may publish excerpts  
of it in issue No 3.

With warm regards  
yours truly,  
+ V R



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MR AASHEESH PITTIE

8-2-545

"PREM PARVAT"

Road No 7,  
Banjara Hills,  
HYDERABAD

-500 034