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Prof. N.V. Joshi
Center for Ecological Studies
Indian Institute of Science

Dear Prof. Joshi,

I am happy to inform you that your paper "The spatial organisation of plant communities in a deciduous forest: A computational geometry based analysis" has been accepted in the special issue of the IISc Journal. Referee reports are enclosed. The second referee seems to ask for some more elaboration so as to make it easier for a non-ecologist to read this paper. Since the referee has not been very specific, I'll leave it to you to decide what these changes should be, if any.

Please send me the final copy of the paper as soon as you can, preferably by mid-April. I'll need the final file on a floppy (WORD or LATEX) along with a hard copy.

Thank you again for submitting to the IISc Journal.

Sincerely,

(Dr. Ramesh Hariharan)
Guest Editor
IISc Journal

"The spatial organisation of plant communities in a deciduous forest: A computational geometry based analysis" by Joshi et al

Ref 1

The paper is very lucid in form and relevant in its content.

The authors explain in simple terms, the geometrical concepts of Voronoi cells and Delaunay triangulation and its applications in the field of forest dynamics. They argue that this method has several advantages over the conventional sampling methods used to assess inter and intra specific association in plant communities. The advantages of the method are chiefly its independence of sample size.

Using this method the authors propose unambiguous and objective indices of dispersion of plant species. The method is potentially applicable to studying interspecific interactions.

The paper is commendable for its novel approach to problem formalisation and in its industrious use of internet software.

Ref 2

2. Some basic material on dynamics of plant communities and the significance of inter specific plant affinities is needed if this paper is to make sense to non-ecologists. If possible some physical explanation should be given for the results of this analysis. The ecological significance of the area-perimeter relationship is not presented.