

Foreword

I am delighted to write a Foreword to the Book 'Diversity of *Garcinia* species in the Western Ghats: Phytochemical Perspective' edited by my student Dr. K. B. Rameshkumar who took *Garcinia imberti* as a subject for his doctoral studies. It gives me all the more pleasure and gratification to see that he continued with his studies on *Garcinia* species of the Western Ghats along with his students and colleagues. Unlike many other doctoral students, he kept alive his passion for the studies on *Garcinia* and the present book is the outcome of his dedicated efforts during the last one and a half decades. Pursuit of science is a passion and unravelling the subtleties of nature is an ecstasy which fulfils the inner urge for quest and discovery.

The genus *Garcinia* is important by virtue of their reputation in traditional medicines, established pharmacological activities, diversity in chemical structures and potential nutritional properties. Despite recent progress in phytochemical and pharmacological studies on *Garcinia* species world over, significant gaps still exist concerning the exploration of the vast data on phytochemical diversity of *Garcinia* species. The present book provides a comprehensive and updated report on different aspects including distribution, conservation, morphology, chemotaxonomy, molecular taxonomy and pharmacology of *Garcinia* plants, with emphasis on Western Ghats species. Its specific focus on the Phytochemistry of *Garcinia* species is a great contribution to the lesser known subject Phytochemistry, especially in India. The authors are experts in their relevant field of research, as revealed by the contents and the in-depth presentation of individual chapters. The compiled data may provide useful clues to promote further investigations for the development of new lead molecules and value added products from *Garcinia* species. Furthermore, the book will give basic information on possible conservation strategies for the Western Ghats *Garcinia* plants. I personally am privileged to present this elegant work on 'Phytochemistry of *Garcinia* species' before the scientific community.

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