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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