

pattern of citations varied from journal to journal, as shown in Table 1. A majority of these papers were cited between 1 and 5 times and only about 3% papers were cited six or more times. The proportion of cited domestic and foreign papers was almost the same (38% and 40%). However, collaborative papers had higher citations than domestic and foreign papers (55%).

Possible reasons for fewer citations of Indian science periodicals may be either due to the low prestige of the journal or the relative irrelevance of the work, which was not connected to mainstream science. Another possibility might be that the work being published in these journals is getting cited in domestic journals which are not indexed by SCIE. In addition, other factors responsible for poor citations might be the poor circula-

tion, low frequency of publication and non-availability of these journals in the Open Access mode. However, Open Access, full-text information systems are rapidly being developed in India. In order to enhance the visibility and citations of Indian science journals, journal editors need to create conducive conditions to attract quality papers from India and abroad. Also, there is a need to constitute editorial boards which are international in character and to appoint professional marketing agencies to increase the circulation of the journals. All these will help in enhancing the citations of Indian science journals.

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## Kannimara teak: an extant forest genetic resource

The Kannimara teak is the largest teak tree (48.5 m height, 6.57 m girth) in the country, aged about 450–500 years. It is a precious asset standing in the Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala (10°23'00"N, 76°42'30"E; Figure 1). The tree is healthy, it flowers and fruits annually and the seeds develop into viable seedlings. During the colonial era such giant teak trees were selectively harvested for ship-building. By the late 18th century most teak genetic resources got

depleted in the wild and man-made plantations were initiated. Trees akin to Kannimara teak are still found as museum exhibits in different parts of our country. Incidentally, the Gass Forest Museum (GFM) at Coimbatore, the oldest museum in the country, has a tree cross-section harvested during 1904. It is interesting to trace how Kannimara teak escaped the selective harvest forest management practice of the British Raj. Historically, the tree belongs to Kongu Nadu (presently

Coimbatore region) that worshipped the 'Saptha Kanniyar' (the seven virgin guardian angels). This practice is still prevalent among the people of Coimbatore region and its neighbouring districts. During the British era, forest-dwellers of Parambikulam believed that the Kannimara teak was an abode of the seven angels. This sentiment was respected by the then rulers and the tree became extant. Perhaps in terms of forest genetics it is still a resource of many founder alleles related to productivity and various other characteristics. The Government of India recognized the tree with 'Mahvriksha Puraskar' (Great Tree) award in 1994. The United Nations is making preparations to celebrate the year 2011 as the 'International Year of Forests' ([www.un.org](http://www.un.org)). This reminds us that it is time for us also to appreciate our precious forest resources.

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**Figure 1.** a, View of the Kannimara teak. b, Volunteers measuring the girth of the tree.