



# Madras Naturalists' Society

No. 8, Janaki Avenue, Abhiramapuram, Chennai – 600 018  
Phone: 98400 90875. E-mail: [madrasnaturalistsociety@gmail.com](mailto:madrasnaturalistsociety@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.blackbuck.org.in](http://www.blackbuck.org.in)

## M. Krishnan Memorial Award For Nature Writing 2025

### The Organiser

Madras Naturalists' Society (MNS)

### Theme

Celebrating Insects

### Calendar

**15 August 2024** – Launch of the Writing Competition

**15 November 2024** – Deadline for submission

**31 December 2024** – Shortlisted participants will be announced on the website - [www.blackbuck.org.in](http://www.blackbuck.org.in)

**15 February 2025** – The award-winning entry and the next two commendable entries will be announced on the website – [www.blackbuck.org.in](http://www.blackbuck.org.in)

### The Theme: Celebrating Insects

Insects are ubiquitous. They are found on every continent, in nearly every habitat. Indeed, it would seem that wherever one turns, there is insect life to be found.

Insects are also numerous. It is estimated that there are millions of insects per acre of land. There are even estimates of the total number of insect individuals alive in the world at any given time: according to one calculation, this number is 10 quintillion, a number that is so large that it defies comprehension. It is only thanks to the small size of insects that there is scope for improving the appreciation by humans of their ubiquitous distribution and their numerosity.

Insects are diverse as well. The forms and colours of insects, the things they do - they are all extraordinarily diverse.

For the naturalist whose senses are tuned so as to be aware of insects, doors are opened to a world of its own. It is a world that the naturalist could explore endlessly. The world of insects is a source of enthrallment.



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Participants are invited to submit written work that celebrates insects. Your work needs to convey the enthusiasm of the naturalist. It should have your personal observations. And it needs to be scientifically accurate.

Participants are required to submit original works that have not been published or presented elsewhere. The works should, in the spirit of M. Krishnan's writings, aim to promote an understanding of nature and support for conservation among lay persons.

Here are some suggestions for the form that a work could take:

1. A portrait of a particular insect, focusing on its natural history.
2. An account of an entire insect habitat, such as a deciduous forest or a protected campus in a city, describing its fauna and flora.
3. A description of an adventure involving an insect.
4. A fictional story about an insect that is grounded in what is known about it scientifically.
5. An essay on the threats faced by an insect or a set of insects.

Participants are encouraged to draw on their personal observations/experiences where possible, to hold the interest of the reader and to provide creative solutions to problems faced by wildlife in general and insects in particular.

## Rules

All works must be submitted by individuals (collaboration is not allowed).

Each participant may submit only one work.

**The competition is open to Indian citizens aged between 18 and 30 years as on 15th November 2024.**

Submissions must be made together with the official entry form available online.

Submissions must be in English.

The work must be submitted in the .doc format (Open Office and MS Word compatible) or portable document format (PDF). Entries should be in 10 point Times New Roman, 1.5 line space. There should be no text boxes, figures or tables in the document.



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**The word count of the work should be 2700 - 3000 words.  
Please check the same before submitting.**

**The last date for submission is 15th November 2024.**

Submissions must be sent via email as attachments to [madrasnaturalistssociety@gmail.com](mailto:madrasnaturalistssociety@gmail.com) along with the official entry form.

Details of the participant such as the name and address should be provided in the official entry form only. These details should not be provided in the file containing the work.

The file should be named with the first four (or fewer) letters of the participant's surname, followed by integers representing the participant's date of birth in the date-month-year format. For example, a participant with surname Srinivasan and born on 6 March 2001 should use the name 'srin06032001.doc' or 'srin06032001.pdf' for his or her submission.

**Each work must be accompanied by a short Summary. Alternatively, an introduction or an extract from the work could be provided. The word count of this Summary should not exceed 200 words. Participants should note that the Summary is an important part of the submission as it will be used by the Jury to make a pre-selection.**

If the participant quotes published material or cites a reference, the source should be unambiguously indicated and credited.

The Madras Naturalists' Society reserves the right to publish and to make available to the public the winning submissions.

The decision of the Jury is final and is not subject to appeal.

Submissions will be acknowledged by email. Participants are requested not to enquire about the status of their entries. Shortlisted and Winning participants will be informed by email.

## **Prizes**

1. First Prize – Rs.15,000/-, Citation and a Certificate.
2. Two Commendable Entries – Honourable Mention and a Certificate.