



**Report of the EDUCATIONAL VISIT by I year Post graduates to
UPASI Tea Research Foundation, Valparai, Coimbatore
during 24.09.2024 to 27.09.2024**

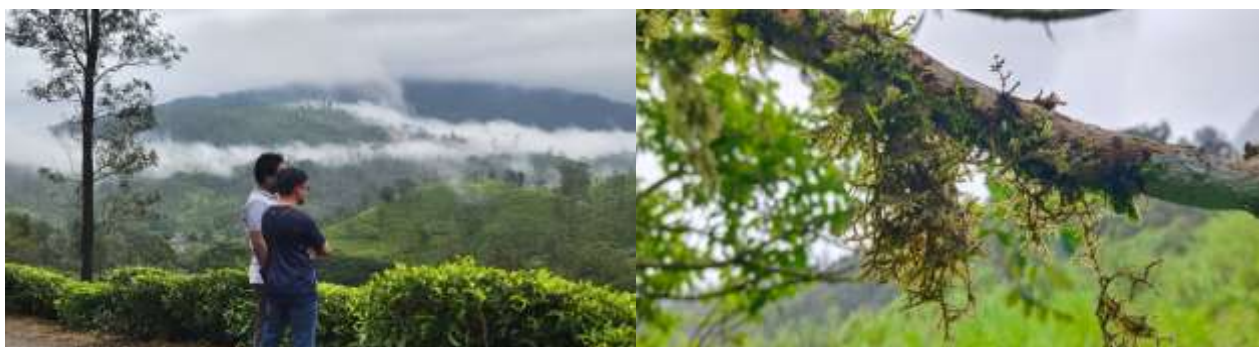
As part of the curriculum, the Students of I M.Sc., Zoology planned a two-day visit to the United Planters Association of South India **UPASI Tea Research Foundation**, Valparai, Coimbatore to fulfil participative and experimental learning. The trip was initiated so that students get exposed to advanced research studies pertaining to different Terrestrial ecosystems in the Western Ghats.

Day 1: On 26th October 2024, at UPASI, Valparai:

Recent studies in Entomology at UPASI on effective control & Management of controlling the pests of Tea plants were enlightening to students towards higher research on biocontrol agents. Dr. Rabeesh, Entomologist & Head, Division of Entomology, Mr. Asif, Assistant Entomologist elaborated on the different pests of Tea plants and their control methodologies in the culture of Entomopathogenic fungi and its application in the field reduce the pests in greater number at different levels. Research Assistants were also engaged in practical sessions. The One-day workshop on modern techniques in Entomology motivated our students to undertake higher studies. Dinner was prepared by our students and staying in the Sinkona forest range has indeed been a great experience.



Mr. Asif, Assistant Entomologist explains to our students the intricacies of IPM



Enjoying the Nature and the Serene environment

Day 2: On 27th October 2024, at Chinna Kallar, Valparai:

The next day started with a misty freezy weather, learned field survey techniques such as analysing the levels of pest infestation in Tea plantations. After the breakfast prepared by own students, we moved to Chinna Kallar forest with the guidance of Forest guard. He explained the different ecosystem, Vegetation and their conservation steps practised by the forest department in the range areas. The Grasslands in the forest and the Shola forest bring plenty of water to the catchment of Aliyar dam, Pollachi. Thus, the Two-day visit enabled our students acquire better understanding on the numerous modern techniques, methodologies involved in Entomological studies and Conservation strategies in the Western Ghats. It was a great experience to our PG students to take up ecological Research as their future endeavour!



Our Team analysing for any pest damages in the Tea plantations



...while trekking through the deep forest and woods in the Western Ghats