

MAPA: 1979-2021

The *Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Abstracts* (MAPA) started its journey in 1979 from the Publications & Information Directorate, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi, intending to provide comprehensive coverage of world literature on all aspects of medicinal, aromatic, and allied plants. In its early years, a 6-10 editors' team manually scanned the research journals and wrote the summaries/abstracts of the research/review articles.

Over the years, MAPA evolved as an invaluable reference and current awareness tool. It immensely helped scientists, researchers, planners, and students in the field of medicinal and aromatic plants in saving their time by providing concise and relevant R&D literature. A high point in the history of MAPA was when it made to the WIPO's PCT Minimum Documents list that patent examiners are required to consult for prior art search. In 2011, MAPA went online and continued in print too.

With the advent and rapid growth of online journals and databases during the last two decades, the availability and access to R&D information have become a lot easier and instantaneous. Comprehensive databases, both open access and paid, have become readily available, and as such, niche secondary information sources such as MAPA began to lose relevance.

For 42 years, MAPA served as an excellent platform for information on medicinal and aromatic plants. A few months ago, CSIR-NIScPR took the decision to discontinue MAPA. This 31st December 2021 issue is the last issue of MAPA.

Five years ago, I was given the responsibility to serve as the Editor of MAPA. I shouldered this onerous duty diligently and with utmost sincerity despite it being a constantly demanding task.

On behalf of CSIR-NIScPR, I thank all the MAPA subscribers for their constant support over the many long years. My heartfelt thanks to all the Editorial Team & Board Members, past and present, for their time and efforts in bringing out this publication.

Monika Jaggi
Editor