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**Chairman**  
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**Principal Chief Conservator of Forests**  
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**Principal Chief Conservator of Forests**  
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**Panagal, Maligai,**  
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**The Chairperson**

**NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY**

**# 475, 9<sup>th</sup> South Cross Street,**

**Kapaleeswar Nagar, Neelankarai**

**Chennai - 6000041.**



**The Secretary**

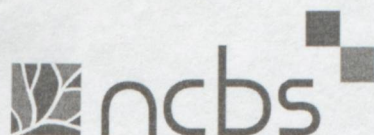
**NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY**

**# 475,9<sup>th</sup> South Cross Street,**

**Kapaleeswar Nagar, Neelankarai,**

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Dear Colleague

I am a Professor at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research Bombay and hold joint appointments at the National Centre for Biological Sciences Bangalore. My research is in the area of Neurobiology. I have recently initiated a project on characterisation of Peptide toxins of therapeutic value from Indian cone snail species and this is funded by the Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India. I am writing this letter to seek permission to collect the marine cone snails from Andaman Nichobar Islands for this project which is being executed as an inter-institutional multi-investigator collaboration with Prof. P. Balaram, Indian Institute of Science Bangalore, Prof. S. P. Sarma (IISc), Prof. S. K. Sikdar (IISc), Prof. M. K. Mathew (NCBS), Prof. Olivia Fernando, Centre for Advanced studies, Annamalai University, Parangipettai, Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu and Dr. Laladhas, St. Stephen's College (Kerala University) Kollam.

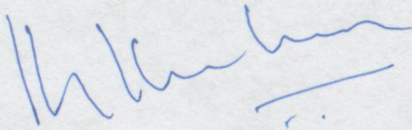
The main objective of our project is to develop competence to analyze and characterize cone snail venoms and toxins. We have been developing not only fractionation, purification, sequencing and structural analysis strategies but also develop biological assays to assess specificities of conotoxins expected to be isolated from the cone snail venoms since 2003. We have identified some analgesic peptides which act on ion channels and developed methods of both biological and chemical synthesis. We have been involved in developing this area of expertise and hope to provide challenging opportunities to enhance indigenous capabilities in the development of a new class of drugs.



We have restricted our collections to trash and species which are not in any endangered list and only small areas. We need to assess abundance and availability of species in several more points. This may also involve assessing photographically but with out collecting specimens in marine park areas. I would be grateful, if you could issue permission for me to collect common *Conus sp* from Andaman Nichobar Islands in non-notified areas and access for study purposes. I look forward to hearing from you at an early date.

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely



**(Prof. K. S. Krishnan)**