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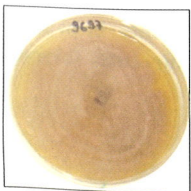
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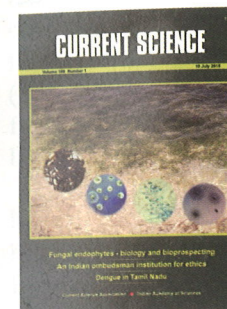
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COVER. The cover shows the sea in Mandapam, southern India with seaweeds and seagrasses. The insets show the brown seaweed *Sargassum wightii*, growth of endophyte colonies from sample tissue segments, photomicrograph of the endophyte *Trichoderma harzianum* from *S. wightii* and an agar plate assay indicating the production of xylanase by this endophyte. Photo credit: *T. harzianum* by S. Vidal and all others by T.S. Suryanarayanan. See special section.

The editor thanks Dr T. S. Suryanarayanan, Vivekananda Institute of Tropical Mycology, Chennai and Dr R. Uma Shaanker, Department of Crop Physiology and School of Ecology and Conservation, GKVK, Bengaluru for agreeing to be guest editors for the special section.

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