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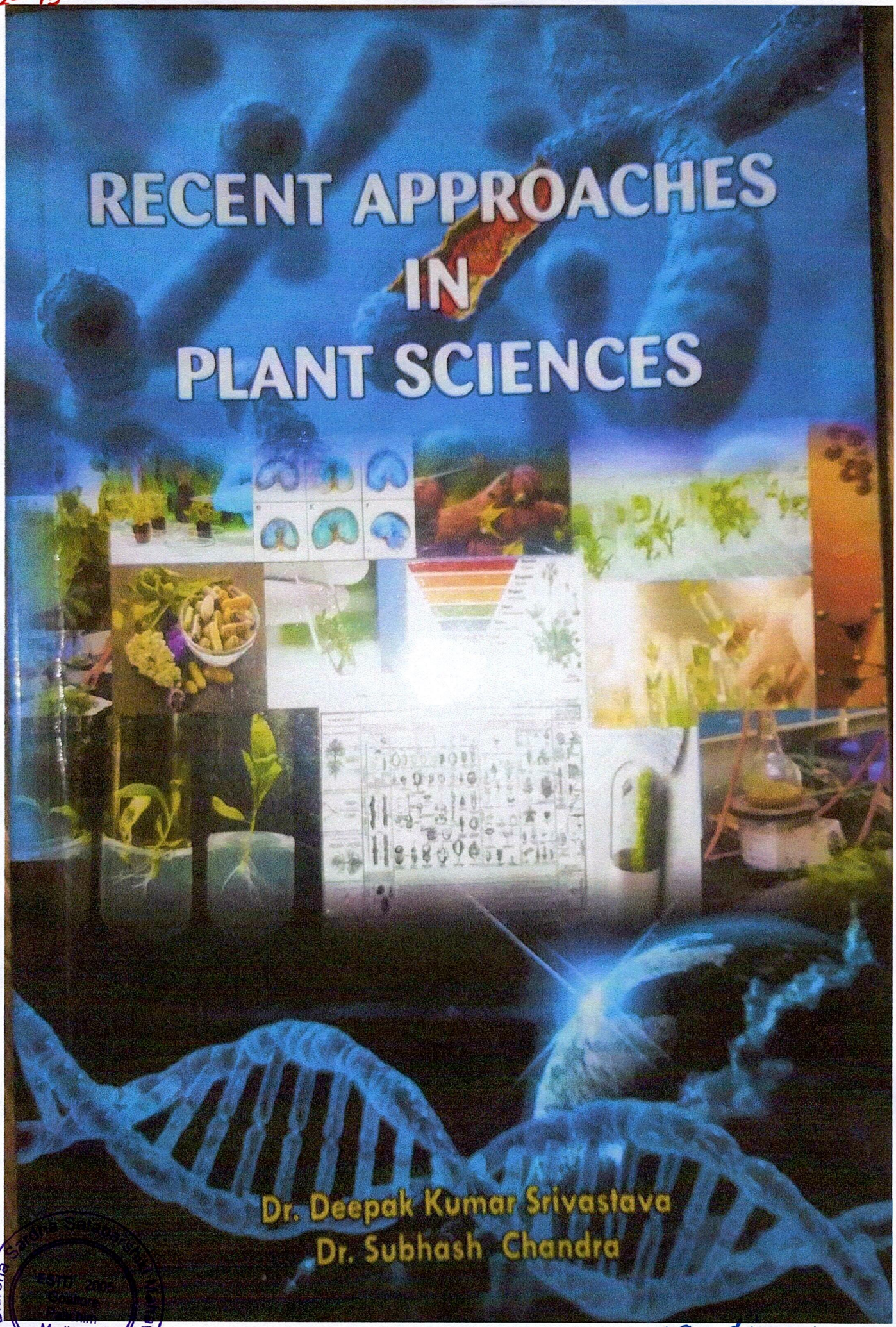

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CONTENTS

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Chapter 19

MICROMOROPHOLOGICAL STUDIES ON THE GENUS *Kobresia* (CYPERACEAE) IN INDIA

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While preparing a systematic account of the genus *Kobresia* Willd. of family Cyperaceae in India, micromorphological features of nuts of its 34 species was studied using both Stereo Zoom microscope and Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM: Hitachi S530) since nuts are hard, durable and capable of preserving their surface pattern useful in taxonomy even in stressful environment prevailing in their habitats stationed in alpine and subalpine biomes. The brief description of the nuts and the surface characteristics of these species thus prepared and tabulated shows considerable polymorphism as well as uniqueness. The surface characteristics being species wise variable were also successfully used in preparing a key to the identification of the concerned species, thus enabling identification of the species in absence of the visible above-ground shoots. Although some botanist combine the genus *Kobresia* with the genus *Carex*, present authors strongly consider these two genera as distinct taxa on grounds of their unique morpho-anatomical characters.