

A Report on XXII Annual Conference of IAAT and International Symposium on Innovative Prospects in Angiosperm Taxonomy (ISIPAT – 2012)

The XXII Annual Conference of IAAT and International Symposium on “Innovative Prospects in Angiosperm Taxonomy” was organized at Department of Botany, Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati during 28 – 30 October, 2012. The inaugural function was presided over by Dr. Mohan Khedkar, Vice-Chancellor, Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University. Dr. Paramjit Singh, Director, Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Dr. J.A. Tidke, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University welcomed the guests. Dr. S.R. Manik, Professor and Head, Department of Botany and Organizing Secretary ISIPAT – 2012, introduced the theme of the Conference. Prof. A.K. Koul, President, IAAT and Dr. M. Sabu, Secretary, IAAT, released the Abstracts and Souvenir volumes respectively.



Hon. Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Mohan Khedkar, addressing the delegates

Dr. Paramjit Singh in his inaugural speech highlighted the recent upcoming challenges in Angiosperm systematics. Prof. A.K. Koul, President, IAAT, focused on the enrichment of taxonomic data from allied disciplines. He expressed the view that the funding agencies have also realised the need of basic sciences like Angiosperm Taxonomy, and hoped that taxonomists utilise the opportunity and bring in innovative approaches in plant systematics. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Markku Häkkinen, Finland on Wild Musaceae.

Prof. Y.D. Tiagi and Prof. V.V. Sivarajan Medal award lectures were delivered by Prof. G.H. Dar



Lighting of the Lamp during the inaugural ceremony by Dr. Markku Häkkinen, Finland.

(Rajouri) and Prof. Alka Chaturvedi (Nagpur). Dr. Steven Manchester, USA, delivered a talk on “Vintage Grapes: Tracing the biogeographic history of Vitaceae with new evidence from the fossil record”. Prof. A.K. Pandey (Delhi) delivered plenary lecture. Invited lectures were delivered by Prof. S.R. Yadav (Kolhapur), Prof. T. Pulliah (Anantapur), Dr. N.K. Dhal (Bhubaneswar), Prof. T.R. Sahu (Sagar), Dr. Cheng Sen Li (China), Dr. Gulden Haspolet (Turkey), Dr. A.K. Srivastava and Dr. Rashmi Srivastava (Lucknow).



Release of Abstracts and Souvenir volumes

The sub-themes of the conference were: Palaeofloristics, Evolution and Palaeoclimate; Morphotaxonomic variations and classification; Plant



Dr. Paramjit Singh, Director, Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata, delivering Inaugural Address



Prof. A.K. Koul, President, IAAT, delivering Presidential Address.

Systematics and Phylogeny; Taxonomic Database and Classification; Cytotaxonomy and Molecular Systematics; Speciation and Adaptations; Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resources; Climate Change; Biodiversity Informatics and Natural Ayurvedic Herbal Medicine.

6. Prof. M. Sabu Award for best paper in Angiosperm Taxonomy, presented by Teachers and Scientists: Dr. Sachin A. Punekar, Pune.

The International Symposium was sponsored by UGC, DST, CSIR, DBT, MoES, The Palaeobotanical Society (Lucknow) and ISCA, Amravati Chapter, Shri Shivaji Education Society, Vidya Bharati Shaikshnik Mandal, Vidarbha Youth Welfare Society and Labline, Amravati.



Prof. A.K. Pandey expressing his views at the valedictory function



Organizing Secretary Prof. S.R. Manik summing up the IAAT conference.

More than 350 oral and poster research papers were presented. The following are the various competition categories and the awardees for best presentations:

1. Prof. K.S. Manilal Award for Floristics: Mr. K.M. Prabhukumar, Kottakkal.
2. Prof. R.S. Rao Award for Biodiversity Conservation: Dr. S. Karuppaswamy, Madurai.
3. Prof. T.R. Sahu Award for Medicinal Plant systematics: Dr. Ishnava Kalpesh, Anand.
4. Prof. S.R. Yadav Award for best Poster presentation: Mr. Sheikh Abdul Shukoor, Amritsar.
5. Fr. Antony Mukkath – K.S. Manilal Award for the best paper in Modern Techniques in Plant Taxonomy: Dr. K.B. Ramesh Kumar, Thiruvananthapuram.

The International Symposium and XXII Annual Conference of IAAT concluded with the valedictory session. The valedictory address was delivered by Dr. G.V. Patil, Ex-Vice-Chancellor of the University. Prof. Mohan Khedkar and Prof. A.K. Koul distributed the certificates to the awardees. Prof. J.A. Tidke, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Convener of the Conference proposed the vote of thanks.

Prof. S.R. Manik
Organizing Secretary
Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University