



A report on XXIV Annual conference of Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy (IAAT) and International Conference on Trends in Plant Systematics (TIPS)

The 24th Annual Conference of Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy (IAAT) and International Conference on Trends in Plant Systematics (TIPS) was organized at the Department of Plant Science, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu. The conference was held from 31st October to 2nd November 2014. The inaugural function was presided over by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. V.M. Muthukumar, Bharathidasan University. Dr. Prabha Y. Bhogaonkar, President of IAAT, graced the function as the Chief Guest. Prof. M.B. Viswanathan, Head, Department of Plant Science, Bharathidasan University and Organizing Secretary of the conference welcomed the guests and introduced the Themes of the Conference.



Inaugural function

Dr. V.M. Muthukumar, delivered presidential address and released the Souvenir and Abstract volume. Dr. Prabha Y. Bhogaonkar, during her presidential speech highlighted the importance of Ethnobotany. Prof. M. Sabu, Secretary, IAAT summarised the activities of the IAAT.



The release of Souvenir and Abstract volume

Prof. Y.D. Tiagi Gold Medal Award Lecture was delivered by Dr. M.A. Wadoodkhan. His



Prof. Y.D. Tiagi Gold Medal Award being conferred upon Dr. M.A. Wadoodkhan

book entitled "Cyperaceae of Western Ghats, West Coast and Maharashtra" was released by the Honorable Vice-Chancellor. Dr. P. Pushpangadan, former Director, Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, was honoured by the Vice-Chancellor. Prof. M. Sabu, University of Calicut, delivered Prof. V.V. Sivarajan Gold Medal Award lecture on "Indian



Dr. P. Pushpangadan being honoured at Bharathidasan University

Zingiberales: Retrospect and Prospects". Prof. A.K.M. Nazrul Islam, Bangladesh, delivered a lecture on "Climate, Vegetation and Distribution of Taxa and Diversity: A Synthesis". Dr. M. Sanjappa, Former Director of the Botanical



Dr. M. Sanjappa addressing the delegates

Survey of India (BSI) & CSIR Emeritus Scientist, delivered a Lecture on the "Floristic Diversity in India: An Overview". Prof. M. K. Janarthanam, Department of Botany, Goa University, Goa, delivered a lecture on "Phytogeography in India: A forgotten Discipline vs Emerging Trends". Dr. A.G. Pandurangan, Plant Systematics and Evolutionary Science Division, Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden & Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, delivered a lecture on "Endemism and its Phytogeographical Significance of Angiosperms in the Western Ghats". A lecture on "Exploration, Documentation and Conservation of Floristic Diversity of the Eastern Ghats, Odisha, for Bioprospecting", was delivered by Dr. N.K. Dhal, CSIR, Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology, Bhubaneswar. Prof. T. Pullaiah, formerly Department of Botany, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur, delivered a lecture on "Flora of Telangana-the 29th State of India". Prof. V.S. Ramachandran, formerly Department of Botany, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, delivered a Lecture on "The Domestication of Wild Ornamental Potential Plants – A Case Study from the Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu". Dr. S.R. Yadav, Department of Botany, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Maharashtra,



Prof. Prabha Y. Bhogaonkar, President of IAAT addressing the members at the general body meeting of the IAAT



Mr. P.E. Sreejith, Calicut University receiving Prof. K.S. Manilal Award

delivered a Lecture on *Pancratium*, a genus with convoluted taxonomy.

Themes of the Conference were Systematics of Flowering Plants and Phylogeny; Modern trends and Techniques in Plant Taxonomy; Biodiversity Assessment and Conservation; Phytogeography, Endemism and Threatened Plants; Ethnobotany; Medicinal Plants and Bioprospecting and Agrodiversity and Diversity of Stressed Habitats.

More than 300 oral and poster research paper presentations were made during the Conference. The following are the various best paper and poster presentation awards and awardees for best presentations:

1. Prof. R.S. Rao Award for Best Paper in Biodiversity Conservation: Mr. Alfred Joe, Calicut.
2. Prof. K.S. Manilal Award for Best Paper in Floristics (New Species/ New Reports): Mr. P.E. Sreejith, Calicut.
3. Prof. T.R. Sahu Award for Best Paper in Medicinal Plant Systematics: Ms. Sharadha K. Ulha, Nagpur.
4. Fr. Anthony Mukkath – K.S. Manilal Award for Best Paper in Modern Techniques in Plant Taxonomy: Mr. Anu Aravind, Thiruvananthapuram.
5. Prof. M. Sabu Award for Best Paper in Angiosperm Taxonomy (For Teacher & Scientists): Mr. M.M. Lekhak, Kolhapur.
6. Prof. S.R. Yadav Award for Best Poster Presentation: Ms. Bandana Bhattacharjee, Kolkata.

This conference was sponsored by National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai; Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), New Delhi; Department of Biotechnology (DBT), New Delhi; University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi; Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO), New Delhi; Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi; Department of Environment, Government of Tamil Nadu, Chennai.

The 24th Annual Conference of IAAT was concluded with the valedictory function. The Valedictory Address was delivered by Prof. E. Ramganesha,

Registrar, Bharathidasan University. Dr. S.R. Yadav, Department of Botany, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, distributed the certificates to the awardees. Prof. M.B. Viswanathan, Organizing Secretary of the conference proposed vote of thanks.

Prof. M.B. Viswanathan
Organizing Secretary
Bharthidasan University, Tiruchirappalli