



A report on XXVI Annual Conference of Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy (IAAT) and International Seminar on Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Biodiversity

The 26th Annual Conference of Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy (IAAT) and International Seminar on "Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Biodiversity" was organized from 7th to 9th November 2016 at the Department of Botany, Shivaji University, Kolhapur. The inaugural function was presided over by Prof. Devanand B. Shinde, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Shivaji University, Kolhapur. Prof. D.K. Gaikwad, Head, Department of Botany, Shivaji University welcomed the dignitaries and participants followed by the introduction of dignitaries by Prof. S.S. Kamble. Prof. G.R. Naik, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Central University, Karnataka delivered the inaugural address. His address threw light on the significance of biodiversity and role of taxonomists in documentation and conservation of biodiversity. He appreciated the efforts taken by the Department of Botany to establish a Lead Botanical Garden in the University campus and encouraged to go a step forward for ecotourism. Dr. Paramjit Singh, Director, Botanical Survey of India (BSI), who participated as a guest of honour, emphasised the role and function of BSI in plant taxonomic research in the country. Dr. M. Sabu, Secretary, has highlighted the objectives and functioning of IAAT. Prof. S.R. Yadav, the President, IAAT in his address has focused on the role of plants in human welfare and climate change. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof.



Watering the plant as part of the inaugural ceremony by Prof. G.R. Naik, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Central University, Karnataka



Special felicitation to Prof. S.R. Yadav for his selection as a Fellow of Indian National Science Academy

Dr. Devanand B. Shinde, in his presidential address congratulated the organizing committee for the significant contribution and efforts taken by the committee in efficiently organising the conference. The senior retired faculty of the Department of Botany, Dr. B.A. Vagyani, Prof. B.A. Kardage, Prof. P.D. Chavan, Prof. G.B. Dixit, Prof. M.M. Dongare, Prof. A.B. Sabale and Prof. S.R. Yadav were honoured for their achievements and contribution to the Department and University by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor. The vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. N.S. Chavan.

The technical session of the three days conference began with the Prof. V.V. Sivarajan Medal lecture delivered by Dr. V.P. Prasad, Scientist at Central National Herbarium, BSI, Howrah on "A conspectus of the genus *Pycreus* (Cyperaceae) in India". The conference witnessed ten invited lectures delivered by renowned national and international botanists namely Prof. Arun K. Pandey, Prof. Deepthi Yakandawala, Prof. R. Geeta, Prof. Karol Marhold, Dr. P. Lakshminarsimhan, Dr. R.M. Pai, Prof. T. Pullaiah, Dr. Siddharthan Surveswaran, Dr. M. Sanjappa and Dr. R. Umashaankar. Each session preceded by a lead lecture by an eminent professor/scientist. A total of eleven such lead lectures were delivered by Dr. V.A. Bapat, Dr. S.K. Chaturvedi, Prof. A.P. Das, Dr. S.S. Dash, Prof.



Release of the abstract book of the conference by the dignitaries on the dais



Presidential address by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Devanand B. Shinde, Shivaji University, Kolhapur

M.K. Janarthanam, Dr. Prabha Bhogaonkar, Dr. K.S. Rajput, Prof. M.M. Sardesai, Dr. C. Sathish Kumar, Dr. R. Vasudeva and Dr. Vinay M. Raole.

A total of 120 oral and 108 poster presentations were presented in the following thematic areas: 1. Systematics of Flowering Plants, 2. Modern Trends and Techniques in Plant Taxonomy, 3. Biodiversity Assessment and Conservation, 4. Phytogeography, Endemism and Threatened Plants, 5. Ethnobotany and Medicinal Plants and 6. Bioprospecting and Sustainable Utilization. A total of 417 participants from more than 55 Universities and Research Institutes of India including 3 from abroad have participated in the conference, and making it a grand event.

The executive body meeting of IAAT was held at the Department of Botany on 7th November, 2016. As a part of the cultural programme a demonstration

of traditional marshal games of Marata region was performed by the famous Anandrao Thombare Group from Kolhapur, which was appreciated very much by the participants. The General Body meeting of IAAT took place on 8th November 2016 at Rajarshi Shahu Auditorium. A pre-dinner entertainment programme with instrumental music and songs was arranged.

Six awards namely K.S. Manilal Award, Rolla S. Rao Award, T.R. Sahu Award, Fr. Antony Mukkath – K.S. Manilal Award, Prof. M. Sabu Award and S.R. Yadav Award for poster are given in every annual conference for best papers and poster by IAAT. Following is the list of awards and awardees of the conference:

K.S. Manilal Award for best paper in Floristics (New Species/New Reports): Mr. V.S. Hareesh, University of Calicut, Kerala.



Prof. Karol Marhold, Secretary General, IAPT, delivering the keynote address



Dr. A.N. Chandore receiving Prof. M. Sabu Award



Participants of the IAAT Conference and International Seminar

Rolla S. Rao Award for best paper in Biodiversity Conservation: Ms. S. Resmi, University of Calicut, Kerala.

T.R. Sahu Award for best paper in Ethnobotany and Medicinal Plants: Ms. Sagari Chaudhury, BSI, Kolkata.

S.R. Yadav Award for best poster presentation: Mr. Animesh Maji, BSI, Kolkata.

Fr. Antony Mukkath – K.S. Manilal Award for best paper in Modern Techniques in Plant Taxonomy: Mr. Shaikh Abdul Shukoor, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Punjab.

M. Sabu Award for best paper in Angiosperm Taxonomy (for teachers and scientists): Dr. A.N. Chandore, Abasaheb Marathe Arts and New Commerce, Science College, Rajapur, Maharashtra.

The conference was sponsored by University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi; Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi; Department of Science and Technology (DST), New Delhi; Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi; and Bank of Maharashtra.

The valedictory function was presided over by Prof. P.N. Bhosale, Head, Department of Chemistry, Shivaji University. Dr. M. Sanjappa, former Director, BSI was the chief guest for the valedictory function and other dignitaries who were on the dais include Prof. S.R. Yadav, Prof. M.K. Janarthanam, Prof. Karol Marhold, Prof. P.N. Bhosale, Prof. D.K. Gaikwad, Dr. R.V. Gurav, Prof. S.S. Kamble and Prof. N.S. Chavan. An overview of conference was presented by Dr. V.D. Jadhav. The participants unanimously acknowledged and appreciated the excellent and efficient organisation of the conference. Prof. M. Sabu announced winners for the six awards which were distributed by the dignitaries on the dais. In his valedictory speech, Dr. M. Sanjappa suggested that teachers should be a role model to inspire the young generation to learn plant taxonomy. Dr. R.V. Gurav, Organizing Secretary, proposed the vote of thanks.

R.V. Gurav
Organizing Secretary
Department of Botany
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