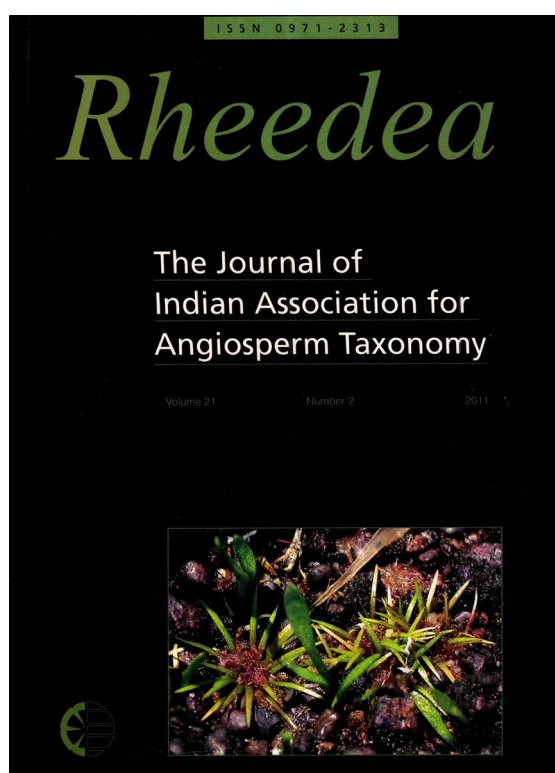




Obituary: Paul Arnold Fryxell (1927 – 2011)

Gandhi K. N.



How to cite:

Gandhi K.N. 2011. Obituary: Paul Arnold Fryxell (1927 – 2011). *Rheedia* 21(2): 174-176.

<https://dx.doi.org/10.22244/rheedia.2011.21.02.13>

Published in print: 31.12.2011

Published Online: 31.12.2011

Obituary

Paul Arnold Fryxell (1927 – 2011)



On 11 July 2011, the world of mallows lost a world-renowned eminent scholar. Dr. Paul Arnold Fryxell passed away in Claremont, California, as a result of heart failure.

Paul was born on 2 February 1927 in Moline, Illinois, USA, the son of Hjalmar Edward Fryxell and Hulda Eunice (Peterson) Fryxell.

Paul received his high school diploma in 1944 from Moline High School, Moline, Illinois and his B.A. degree in 1949 from Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. [During World War II, his education was interrupted. He served in the Air Force (1945 – 1946). After an honourable discharge, he returned to his college education.] Paul received his M.S. degree in 1951 and Ph.D. degree in 1955, both degrees from Iowa State University, USA. His Ph.D. thesis title was “A genetic analysis of yield in upland cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum* L.)”.

In 1952, Paul began his professional career at the New Mexico Agricultural Experiment Station (Las Cruces, New Mexico). Three years later, he taught at the University of Wichita (Kansas) in the Department of Botany and Bacteriology (1955 – 1957). In

1957, Paul joined the U.S. Department of Agriculture and spent most of his professional career as a research scientist (1957 – 1994). Initially, he was stationed at Tempe, Arizona (1957 – 1965) and later at Texas A & M University in College Station, Texas, USA (1965 – 1994). At Texas A & M University, Paul served as a co-advisor or as a committee member to several Ph.D. degree students. In 1993, he was appointed as an honorary curator at The New York Botanical Garden and also as an adjunct professor (in the then Department of Botany) at the University of Texas. Upon his retirement in 1994, Paul moved to Austin, Texas.

Because of his expertise in Malvaceae, Paul’s opinion and collaboration were sought after by many national and international botanists. As a collaborator and a botanical explorer, he travelled to many regions of the world including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Central America, Mexico, and Venezuela. Most of his plant collections are presently housed at The New York Botanical Garden and the University of Texas-Austin herbaria. Paul had high regards for the works of Indian Malvaceae specialists and had corresponded with them. He felt sad on the untimely death of Dr. V.V. Sivarajan (1944 – 1995).

Paul published extensively, including more than 200 papers in scientific journals, several books, and contributions to many floristic works. He authored or coauthored more than 300 Malvaceae taxa names.

Paul was honoured and recognized by the scientific community, e.g., he served as the president of the American Society of Plant Taxonomists (1983 – 1984) and of the Society for Economic Botany (1988 – 1989); a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the Texas Academy of Science; recipient of the Cotton Genetics Research Award in 1967 and the Henry Allen Gleason Award in 1989; a Fulbright Scholar in 1993, studying in Argentina; listed in *American Men and Women of Science*, *Who’s Who in the World*, and several similar biographical references. In his honour, one generic name and seven specific names were published: *Fryxellia* D.M. Bates, *Bauhinia fryxellii* Wunderlin, *Hibiscus fryxellii* Mabb., *Malvastrum*

coromandelianum subsp. *fryxellii* S.R. Hill, *Pavonia fryxellii* Krapov., *P. fryxelliana* Fosberg & Sachét, *Sida fryxellii* Sivar. & A.K. Pradeep and *Waltheria fryxellii* J. Saunders.

The Flora of North America Association has unanimously voted to dedicate the forthcoming volume 6, which includes his treatments of many Malvaceae taxa, to Paul.

After residing in Texas for almost 40 years (1965 – 2005), Paul and his wife of 63 years, Dr. Greta Albrecht Fryxell, moved to be near family in Cla-

remont, California. In Claremont, he was affiliated with Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden.

Paul is survived by his wife Greta, their three children (Karl Joseph Fryxell, Joan Esther Fryxell, and Glen Edward Fryxell), five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

K.N. Gandhi
(Harvard University)