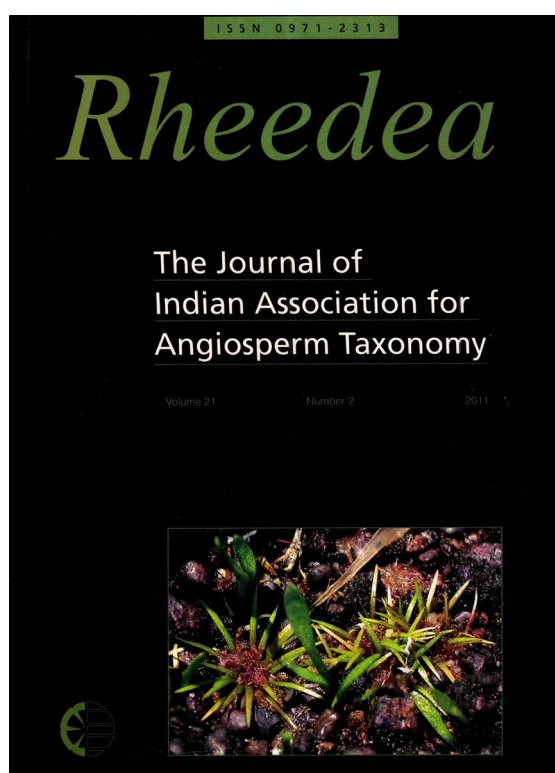




A Report on XXI Annual Conference of IAAT National Seminar on Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change (BCCC – 2011)

Dhal N.K.



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A Report on XXI Annual Conference of IAAT and National Seminar on Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change (BCCC – 2011)

The XXI Annual conference of the Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy (IAAT) and the National Seminar on “Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change” was held at the Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IMMT) from 2 to 4 December, 2011. More than 300 delegates from Universities, Colleges and Research Institutions across the country and Nepal participated in the seminar. The seminar provided an opportunity for angiosperm systematists and conservation biologists to discuss current issues in plant taxonomy, conservation biology and climate change.



Release of souvenir-cum-abstracts book



Inauguration: Dr. Paramjit Singh, Director, Botanical Survey of India, lighting traditional lamp

The inaugural session started with a welcome address by Mr. P.S.R. Reddy, Scientist in-charge, IMMT. Dr. B.C. Acharya introduced the guests. Dr. Paramjit Singh, Director, Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Kolkata, delivered the inaugural address. Prof. T.R. Sahu, President, IAAT, delivered the Presidential Address. Prof. M. Sabu, Secretary of the Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy explained the objectives and various activities of the association. The Souvenir and the Abstract volumes were released by the Chief Guest, Dr. Paramjit Singh, Director, BSI, Kolkata. Dr. H.O. Saxena, a veteran IAAT member, and retired Scientist & Head of Aromatic and Medicinal Plant Division of IMMT was felicitated.

The inauguration was followed by medal award lectures delivered by Prof. M. Sharma (Prof. Y.D. Tiagi Medal Lecture) and Dr. S.K. Srivastava (Prof. V.V. Sivaranjan Medal Lecture). Medal lectures were followed by lead lectures by Prof. M.D. Behera (IIT Kharagpur) on “Climate Change Biology: Lessons from the Past for Looking to the Future” and Prof. A.K. Pandey (Department of Botany, University of Delhi) on Climate change and biodiversity conservation: Current understanding and future challenges.



Prof. M. Sharma receiving Prof. Y.D. Tiagi Medal from Prof. T.R. Sahu, President, IAAT

A total of 240 research papers were presented in 16 technical sessions chaired by eminent personalities in respective fields, and in two poster sessions. Topics related to Systematics of Angiosperms, Modern Trends in Plant Taxonomy, Phytoremediation and Mine reclamation, Plant response to

climate change, Plant diversity and conservation, and Ethnobotany and Medicinal Plants were discussed in the seminar.

The following have won the awards under various competition categories

1. Prof. R.S. Rao Award for the best paper in Biodiversity Conservation (Angiosperms): Mr. K. Prasad, Anantapur
2. Prof. K.S. Manilal Award for the best paper in Floristics (including description of new species and new distributional reports): Ms. Rinku J. Desai, Vadodara.
3. Prof. T.R. Sahu Award for the best paper in Medicinal Plants Systematics: Mr. Navas, Thiruvananthapuram.
4. Prof. S.R. Yadav Award for the best paper poster presentation: Mr. K.M. Manudev, Calicut.
5. Fr. Antony Mukkath – K.S. Manilal Award for the best paper in Modern Techniques in Plant Taxonomy: Mr. M. Venkatramana, Andamans.
6. Prof. M. Sabu Award for the best paper in Angiosperm Taxonomy presented exclusively by teachers and scientists: Dr. P.S. Udayan, Thrissur.

Apart from these the following have won the special session-wise awards

Technical Session – 7: An introduction to the genus *Jasminum* L. from Kerala – V. Devipriya & R. Yohannan

Technical Session – 8: Studies on the Preparation of E-flora of Karaikal District, U.T of Puducherry – K. Sambandan & N. Dhatchanamoorthy

Technical Session – 9: No body was found suitable

Technical Session – 10: Caryopsis morphology of some grasses of Northern Western Ghats – K.V.C. Gosavi & S.R. Yadav

Technical Session – 11: Ethnobotany and Ethnopharmacology of medicinal plants from Belgaum region – Harsha Hegde, Dushyant Kumar & S.D. Kholkute

Technical Session – 12: Floristic diversity of Cold Desert areas in Indian Trans Himalaya – K. Chandra Sekar & R.S. Rawal

Poster Session – 2: A report on medicinal uses of plants wealth among the tribal and non-tribal people of Santiniketan and its adjoining areas of Birbhum district, West Bengal – Sathi Saha and C.H. Rahaman

Technical Session – 14: Taxonomic studies on selected *Musa* L. cultivars (Musaceae) in South India – P.E. Sreejith, M. Sabu & Alfred Joe

Technical Session – 15: A study on eco-floristic and micro-morphological diversity of sand dune vegetation at the eroding beaches of West Bengal and adjacent Orissa – T. Chakraborty, A.K. Mondal & S. Parui (Mondal)

Technical Session – 16: Integrated conservation strategies for threatened medicinal plant resources in South India – P.E. Rajasekharan, S. Ganeshan & T. Vasantha Kumar

On the first day of seminar EC and GB meetings of IAAT were also held. A decision to deposit soft copies of Rheedia with Biodiversity Heritage Library was taken.



Prof. B.K. Mishra, Director, CSIR – IMMT, delivering valedictory address

The seminar concluded with the valedictory session. The valedictory address was given by Prof. B.K. Mishra, Director, CSIR – IMMT, Bhubaneswar. Prof. T.R. Sahu, President of the Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy and Prof. B.K. Mishra, Director, CSIR – IMMT, Bhubaneswar, distributed the certificates to the awardees. Dr. N.K. Dhal, Convener of the seminar proposed Vote of thanks.

The Seminar was supported by CSIR, MoES, DBT, INSA, NBA, NABARD, RUNGTA Mines Ltd. and Bhusan Power & Steel Ltd.

Dr. N.K. Dhal
Convener

XXI Annual Conference of IAAT &
National Seminar on Biodiversity Conservation and
Climate Change (BCCC – 2011)