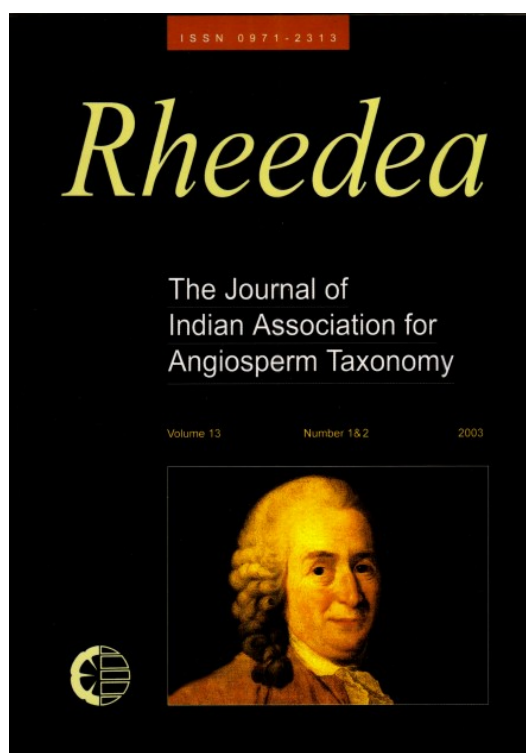




Obituary: Prof. L.L. Narayana (1930-2003)

M. Radhakrishnaiah



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Obituary

Prof. L. L. Narayana (1930-2003)



Professor Lanka Lakshi Narayana, affectionately called Professor LLN among his peers, passed away on 4th January 2003 at the age of 72 in Hyderabad due to cardiac arrest.

Born on 17 May 1930 in the port-town Kakinada in East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh, Prof. Narayana had his school and collegiate education in his home town. During his graduation he came under the influence of Mrs T. V. Chacko of PR College, Kakinada, who sowed the seeds of plant morphology in him. He went to Andhra University for his B. Sc. (Hons.) and M. Sc. where he came under the tutelage of Professors, C. Vekat Rao and J. Venkateswarlu who inducted him into the fascinating fields of floral anatomy and embryology of angiosperms.

Subsequently, he worked with Prof. Syeduddin at Osmania University for his doctoral dissertation on 'Floral Anatomy of Geraniales'. He taught at Osmania University for 8 years and then at Post Graduate Centre, Warangal which later got developed into the present Kakatiya University. He was instrumental in establishing Microbiology and Biotechnology sections in the Botany Department which are now the full fledged Departments of the University.

Prof. Narayana is known for his intellectual acumen. He maintained the professional probity and academic rectitude throughout his official career. He guided ten students for their Ph.D. in the fields of floral anatomy, embryology and chemotaxonomy and published 185 papers in national and international journals. He was in the editorial board of several prestigious journals and life member of many learned academic bodies. He got the 'Best Teacher' award from the Government of Andhra Pradesh and received Gold Medal for his research contribution on 'Apomixis in grain Sorghums'.

An ardent follower of Radhaswamy Satsang cult, Prof. Narayana was a true 'satsangi' in letter and spirit of the word. He left behind a devoted wife and three loving children. The adage "cedar tree has fallen but its fragrance endures" applies to him so aptly.

M. RADHAKRISHNAIAH (Hyderabad)