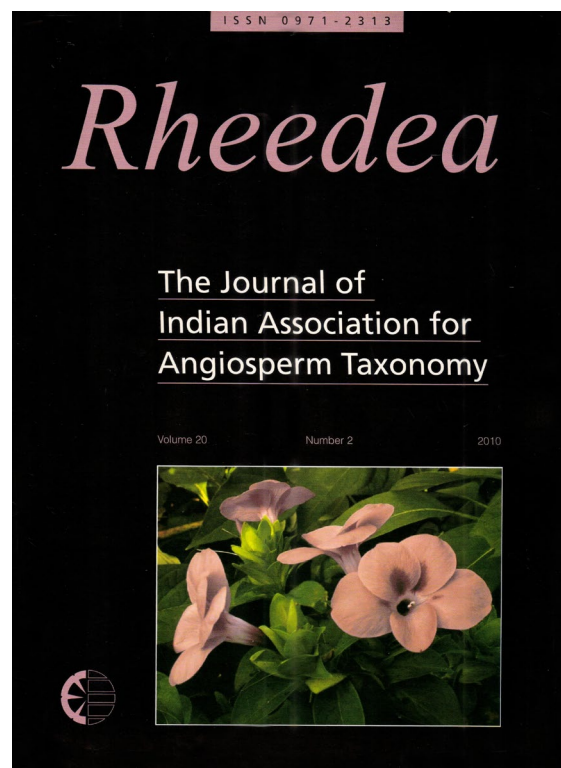




A Report on XX Annual Conference of IAAT

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A Report on XX Annual Conference of IAAT

The 20th Annual Conference of the Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy and International Symposium on 'Taxonomy, Plant diversity and Conservation' was organized at the Department of Botany, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu during 26 – 28 November, 2010. The Symposium was sponsored by Department of Science & Technology (New Delhi), National Biodiversity Authority (Chennai), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (New Delhi) and International Association for Plant Taxonomy (Vienna, Austria).

The inaugural function was presided over by Dr. P. Thirumalvalavan, Registrar, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore. Prof. S. Manian, Head, Department of Botany, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore welcomed the guests. Dr. M. Sabu, Secretary, IAAT gave a brief account of history and activities of IAAT. Dr. V. S. Ramachandran, Organising Secretary, highlighted the theme of the conference. The conference was inaugurated by Dr. M. Sanjappa, Director, Botanical Survey of India, Kolkatta. In the Inaugural address he stressed about the importance of floristic studies in India. Prof. A.K.



Dr. K.N. Gandhi, Senior Nomenclatural Registrar, Harvard University Herbaria delivering the Keynote address

and highlighted the importance of plant nomenclature.

Prof. A.K. Pandey, President, IAAT, in his Presidential address spoke on the changing paradigm of angiosperm systematics. He highlighted the role of comparative data in systematics and emphasized



Dr. M. Sanjappa, Director, Botanical Survey of India delivering the Inaugural address

Pandey, President, IAAT released the Souvenir and Abstract volumes.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. K. N. Gandhi, Senior Nomenclatural Registrar, Harvard University Herbaria. He explained the gradual changes in the systems of angiosperm classifi-



Prof. A.K. Pandey, President, IAAT delivering the Presidential address

the urgent need for revisionary studies, molecular phylogeny and DNA barcoding.

The inaugural function was followed by presentation of medals. Prof. Y.D. Tiagi Medal was awarded to Dr. R. Ansari (Former Director, Malabar Botanical Garden, Kozhikode). He delivered a medal

lecture on “An Overview of the Wetland flora of Kerala and its Conservation”

Prof. V.V. Sivarajan Medal was awarded to Dr. P. Lakshminarasimhan, Central National Herbarium, Howrah. He spoke on “The CBD for Botanists: An introduction to the Convention on Biological Diversity for people working with botanical collections”.

In addition to the presentations by young Scientists, the conference had plenary lectures, lead lectures and invited talks by eminent taxonomists. Plenary lecture was delivered by Dr. K.N. Gandhi, and lead lectures by Prof. S.R. Yadav (Shivaji University, Kolhapur), Prof. V.S. Raju (Kakatiya University, Warangal), Dr. N. Sasidharan (Kerala Forest Research Institute, Thrissur), Prof. M.K. Janarthanam (Goa University, Goa), and Dr. A.G. Pandurangan (Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram).

It is heartening to see an overwhelming response from taxonomic researchers across India who

enthusiastically participated in the conference. More than 350 delegates attended the conference.

The conference ended with the valedictory function which was presided over by Prof. A.K. Pandey, President, IAAT. The valedictory address was delivered by Dr. N. Vijayan Nair, Director, Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore. Best presentation awards were given to: Nilesh V. Malpure (K.S. Manilal Award: Floristics), Kannan C.S. Warriar (Rolla S. Rao Award: Biodiversity Conservation), Ms. Priyanka Ingle (T.R. Sahu Award: Medicinal Plant Systematics), Mr. Robi A.J. (S.R. Yadav Award: Poster Presentation), Ms. S. Shweta (Fr. Anthony Mukkath K.S. Manilal Award: Modern Trends in Taxonomy) and Dr. V. Abdul Jaleel (M. Sabu Award: Angiosperm Taxonomy). Vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. M. Sabu, Secretary, IAAT and Dr. V.S. Ramachandran, Organising Secretary, IAAT, 2010.

Dr. V.S. Ramachandran
Organising Secretary

Prof. A.K. Pandey
President, IAAT