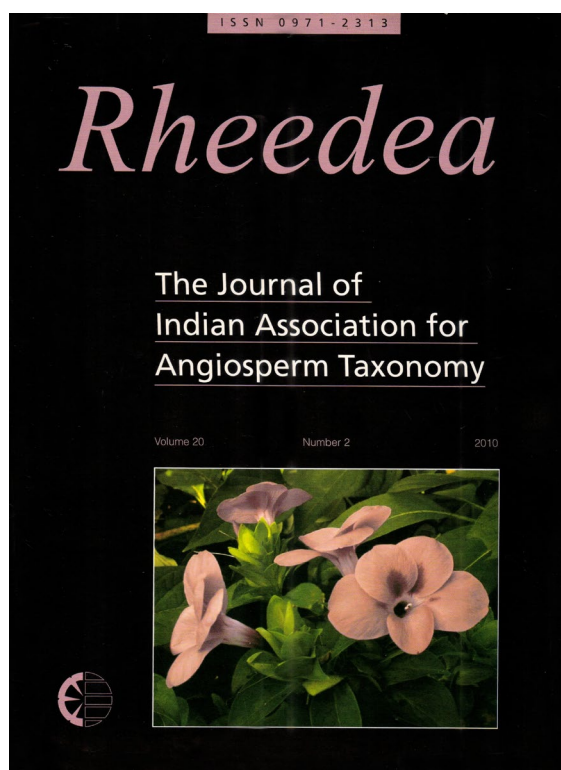




Obituary: Mopuri Brahmam

N.K. Dhal



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Obituary

Mopuri Brahmam



Dr. Mopuri Brahmam passed away on 30 November 2009 at the age of 62. He was born in a small village in Andhra Pradesh on 2 June 1948 and had his initial schooling at his native place. He obtained B. Sc. from Andhra University, M. Sc. from Sagar University, Madhya Pradesh and Ph. D. from Utkal University, Odisha. He joined Regional Research Laboratory, a CSIR organisation, Bhubaneswar, as a Senior Scientific Assistant and retired as Scientist G and was recognised as Scientist G even after his retirement. He made enormous contribution in the fields of Taxonomy, Ethnobotany, Biodiversity and Conservation. For over twenty-five years he surveyed the forests of Odisha

and brought out *The Flora of Orissa* jointly with his senior colleague cum guide Dr. H.O. Saxena in four volumes during 1994 – 96 that served as a major resource for the taxonomic research in the state. His another book entitled *The Flora of Similipahar with Particular Reference to the Potential Economic Plants* helped not only the forest officials but also the common people for better utilisation of the natural resources of Similipahar which is identified as one of the Biodiversity Granaries of Odisha. He developed the Agro-technology for non-conventional crops like medicinal plants, rubber, soap-nut and other saponin-bearing species, fast growing tree species, *Jatropha* and wild oil seeds. He has published more than 110 research papers in national and international journals and guided three Ph. D. scholars. He has successfully completed a number of projects funded by different Government funding agencies and visited countries like Sri Lanka, Thailand, Mauritius and New Zealand in connection with his research activities. Dr. Brahmam was the managing editor of an environment journal *e-planet* and was deeply involved in the improvement of the journal. He developed two experimental gardens for conservation of medicinal plants, fast growing tree species and agro packages of commercially important species. Dr. Brahmam was a key resource person consulted by all for his knowledge on medicinal plants in Odisha.

Botanical community mourns the demise of Dr. Brahmam.

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