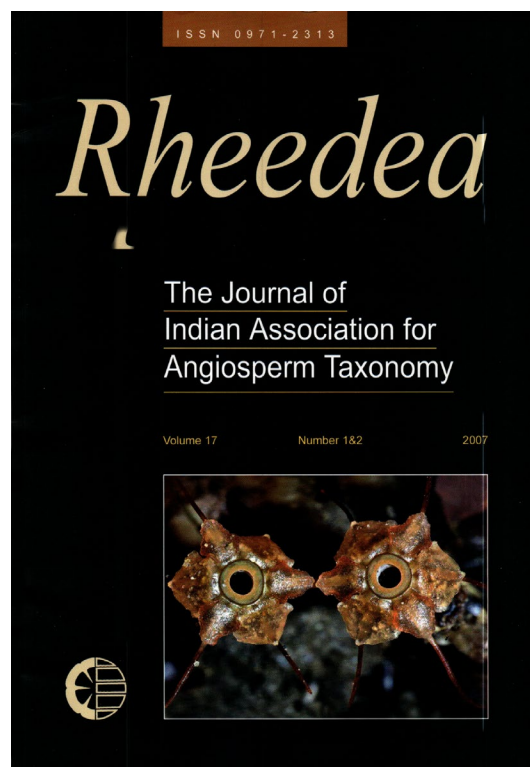




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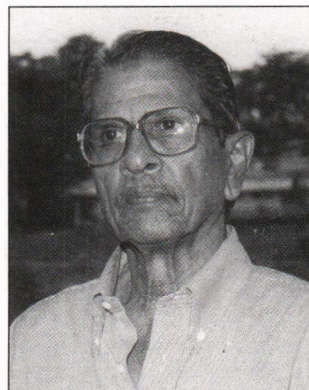
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Obituary

B.V. Shetty (1931-2006)



Bramavar Bailmane Vishwanath Shetty passed away on 26th December 2006 after a short illness at Coimbatore. He is survived by his wife. He was 75. For the last 11 years he had been working as an emeritus scientist at the Department of Applied Botany, Mangalore University where he had sown an idea of creating an arboretum of native trees of the Western Ghats and after the initial hiccups, it was yielding good results. It was sad that he couldn't live up to see his seedlings transforming into big trees.

As a young researcher, I had seen him many a time from a distance in early eighties when he served Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore. He joined Botanical Survey of India as a Scientific Assistant in 1959 and climbed the positions gradually up to become the Deputy Director at the time of his retirement in 1989, completing three decades of successful career as a taxonomist.

During 1986-88 he served RBG, Kew as the Indian Liaison Officer. I got to know him closely when he returned from Kew to become the Deputy Director of BSI at Coimbatore. Later, our relationship grew stronger when we jointly edited a report for an NGO. Soon we came to know each other very closely. I was an admirer of his wit and wisdom. He kept a balanced view of taxonomy and nomenclature.

He had invited me to Mangalore to show his efforts. He visited TBGRI many times and both centres exchanged plants. Once he gave me an old typed article on orchids which appeared long back in National Geographic Magazine (photocopiers were not so common in those days) and a personal copy of List of standardized author abbreviations for our use in Flora of India. He helped *Rheedea* with his pithy criticisms and comments. This continued until he was hospitalised. He wrote to us from the hospital that he would love to help us as soon as he regained his health. We at *Rheedea* deeply condole his sad demise.

He was an expert on Indian Vitaceae. He worked on the flora of Rajasthan for several years. His work, *Flora of Tonk District, Rajasthan* was published in 1983 (with R. P. Pandey) and with V. Singh, he brought out *Flora of Rajasthan* (in two parts) in 1987. Along with K. Vivekananthan, he worked on the flora of Anaimudi and surrounding regions in Idukki district and published several novelties which included *Leucas vestita* var. *devicolamensis*, *Hedyotis santapaui*, *Vernonia anaimudica*, *Pogostemon travancoricus*, *Oberonia sebastiana* and so on.

Like many charismatic species, we are losing many good taxonomists who are blessed with a keen eye for details, like him. And Shetty's disappearance for me is a personal loss. Very amiable and caring he was an embodiment of respect.

C. Sathish Kumar