

## Symposium Report

### XXXII Annual Conference of Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy and National Symposium on “The Contribution of Angiosperm Diversity to Human Wellbeing and the Risks Associated with its Decline” November 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022



*Picture 1. Vice Chancellor of Karnatak University, Dharwad, Prof. Gudasi delivering the presidential address during the inauguration of the National Conference on 11th November 2022, in Srijina Auditorium, KCD Campus, Karnatak College, Dharwad.*

Karnatak College, Dharwad' is a mother institute to Karnatak University, University of Agricultural Sciences Dharwad, Gulbarga University, Women University, Vijayapur and Rani Chennamma University, Belagavi. The Karnatak College was started in 1917 in an imposing and towering red building standing on hillock like a torch bearer of education and culture with a

beautiful, green surroundings having an excellent colourful flowers in spring time, which provide the campus a picturesque / landscape view.

The idea of starting a college in North Karnataka and in particular, at Dharwad was floated as early as 1876. The real beginning of the endeavours however was not made till 1909. Later, due to efforts of Late Diwan Bahadur Rodda Srinivas Rao, Late Shri. Rao Bahadur Artal Ruragouda and Late Shri. M. B. Choubal .



*Picture 2. Vice Chancellor of Karnatak University, Dharwad, Prof. Gudasi welcoming the dignitaries just before the inauguration of the National Conference on 11th November 2022, in Srijina Auditorium, KCD Campus, Karnatak College, Dharwad. The Organising Secretary Dr. K. Kotresha from the Department of Botany, KSCD is also seen in this photograph.*

The foundation stone of Karanatak College was laid by Loyd, on 20th June 1917 by the then his Excellency, Governor of Bombay Presidency (erstwhile Bombay Province) at Chota Mahabaleshwar (Karnatak University Campus, Dharwad). Same time South Maratha Railway Office was shifted to Channi (Madras), so this building was empty. Mr. Loyd, then Governor of Bombay Presidency has allotted the red gothic building to Karnatak College instead of constructing of a new building. Sir, Siddappa Kambali, Education Minister of Bombay province played a pivotal role in promoting science wing of Karnatak College. Late Dr. G. S. Paramashivaiah, (a student of Nobel laureate Sir. C.V. Raman) was the first Principal of

Karnatak Science College. (In 1958, Karnatak College was bifurcated into Karnatak Arts College and Karnatak Science College).



*Picture 3. A view of the dais during the inauguration of the National Conference on 11th November 2022, in Srijina Auditorium, KCD Campus, Karnatak College, Dharwad.*

Department of Botany is housed in a spacious independent building in the midst of lush green vegetation, which provides a congenial environment for students to study. Earlier the department was housed in Biology building since, 1937 and subsequently moved to its independent building in 1951. The Botany and Zoology subjects were introduced at the subsidiary level of the graduate course in science. Prof. D. V. Shende was the first to teach the subject Botany, Prof. L. K. Gunjekar joined him in 1937. Efforts of Prof. P. W. Gideon to introduce Botany and Zoology as a principal subjects in 1938 were turned down by the Government of Bombay as the Second World War had started. Efforts were resumed in 1946 after the Second World War and the Government gave sanction to teach Botany and Zoology as a principal subjects in 1946, Botany subjected was headed by Prof. (Ms). E. Gonzalves. The credit for this must go to Wrangler Dr. D. C. Pavate, then the director of public instructions.

Prof. (Ms). E. Gonzalves also headed the department in the independent building from 1951 - 1954.

Departmental Herbarium housing more than 10,000 specimens, in which a type specimen *Isoetes dixitii* Shende is an extinct (Ex. 11352, Panchghani, Maharashtra) submitted to Department of Botany, than Karnatak College by Prof. D. V. Shende, More than 1000 specimens were collected and submitted by Mr. A. R. Braganza, during 1949 to 1952 working for Herbarium of the Forest Botanist, Province of Bombay State, Dharwad and some are Fischer Herbarium specimens from Holland.



Botany was taught at both B.Sc. and M.Sc. levels, and later P.G. Department was shifted to an independent building at Karnatak University Campus. At present, Department hosts the students for B.Sc., M.Sc., M. Phil., and Ph. D. Degrees courses. Looking in to the needs, an applied subject Genetics was introduced in the department during academic year 2000-01.

With earnest delight, Karnatak Science College, Dharwad organized the XXXII Annual Conference of the Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy and National Symposium on *“The Contribution of Angiosperm Diversity to Human Wellbeing and the Risks Associated*

*with its Decline*” during November 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022. In collaboration with The Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy (IAAT), it was established in the year 1990 and is dedicated to the promotion of all aspects of Angiosperm Taxonomy by providing a platform for scientific deliberation among Indian taxonomists as well as those from all over the world. IAAT also publishes original research contributions, proceedings, and other scholarly works through the journal *Rheedea*. Because of its many activities, IAAT is the largest taxonomy association in India with about 1000 life members.

The Three symposium hosted stage for discussion of achievements and issues in the field of plant systematic and conservation and necessary actions for need of the hour. It provided a great exposure and platform for exchange of ideas among scientists, academicians, research scholars and specially budding botanists. The main objectives of this symposium included extracting solutions to the disputes and ambiguities in plant systematic and nomenclature and sustainable solutions for plant and habitat conservation. It was a beneficial platform for keynote speeches, research papers and poster presentations that will be of great help to the young botanists across the country and outside.

The three day symposium received encouraging messages from Sri. Prahlad Joshi, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal, and Mines, Sri. Iresh B. Anchatgeri, Mayor, Hubli-Dharwad Municipal Corporation, Prof. K. B. Gudasi, Vice Chancellor, Karnatak University, Dharwad and Sri. Yashpal Kshirasagar, Registrar, Karnatak University, Dharwad.

During the three day symposium 184 abstract were received, around 350 participants, represented from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttater Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Delhi, Goa, Northeast states, West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and states. Gold medal lecture (2), Endowment lecture (1), Lead lectures (12), six competition (awards) for best presentations under various categories; **1. Prof. Rolla S. Rao Award:** Biodiversity Conservation (Angiosperms) (12), **2. Prof. K. S. Manilal Award:** Floristics, (12), **3. Prof. T. R. Sahu Award:** Medicinal Plants Systematics (4), **4. Prof. S. R. Yadav Award:** Poster Presentation (10), **5. Fr. Anthony Mukkath – K. S. Manilal Award:** Modern Techniques in Plant Taxonomy (10) and **6. Prof. M. Sabu Award:** Angiosperm Taxonomy (for Teachers and

Scientists) (14) {five awards for young scientists –below age 40, and one award for teachers and scientists –upper age limit 45} followed by oral presentation and poster presentation by the delegates under various themes; 1. Phyto-diversity and its documentation (25), 2. Floristics, Nomenclature, Taxonomic Revisions and Monographs (19), 3. Ethno-botany, Traditional Knowledge on Medicinal plants, and Bioprospecting (38), 4. Phytogeography, Endemism and Conservation (6), 5. Bioystematics, Phylogeny, Pollination and Plant-Animal Interactions (1), 6. Impact of invasive alien species on native flora, 7. Indian Laws pertaining to Forest, Environment and Wildlife, 8. Poster presentation (18).

The Symposium was inaugurated by Prof. K. B. Gudasi, Vice Chancellor, Karnatak University, Dharwad and address the august gathering. Key note address was delivered by Prof. R.R.Hanchinal, Former Vice Chancellor, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad.

Prof. C. Kameshwar Rao, Rtd. Professor, Department of Botany, Bangaluru University, Bangaluru released the Symposium Abstract. Presidential address was given by Prof. G.G. Maiti, Retd. Professor, Kalyani University, Kalyani, West Bengal and president of The Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy (IAAT). The conference was witnessed by Prof. A.K. Ponday, Dr.M.Sanjappa, Dr. Raghavendra R. Rao, Prof. S.R.Yadav, Prof. M.K. Janarthanam, Prof. Santhosh Nampy, Dr. A. G. Pandurangan, Prof. T. C. Taranath, Dr. W. Arisdason, Dr. Shivanand C. Chougala and a galaxy of Botany teachers, scientists, researchers, Ph.D. scholars, students and so many other dignitaries. The inauguration was followed by medal, endowment lecture and technical sessions.

Prof. Y. D. Tiagi Medal Award Lecture was delivered by Prof. Arun K. Pandey, Vice Chancellor, Mansarovar Global University, Bhopalon, the topic ***“My journey from Floristics to Genomics”***. Prof. V. V. Sivarajan Gold Medal Lecture was delivered by Dr. W. Arisdason, Botanical Survey of India, Southern Regional Centre, TNAU Campus, Coimbatore on the topic ***“The Anamalai Hills: A Floristically Underestimated Micro-endemic Centre of Southern Western Ghats, India”***. Prof. Kameswara Rao Endowment Lecture was delivered by Prof. M. K. Janarthanam, Former Vice Chancellor, Goa University, Goa and Visiting Faculty, School of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, Goa University, Goa on the topic ***“Connecting the Bright Patches of Fragmented Landscape of Plant Systematics in India”***. Several lead lectures

were delivered in each parallel session through three days symposium which were, 'Fossil History of Angiosperms' by Prof. C. Kameswara Rao, 'The End of Classical Plant Taxonomy? Can Biological Sciences Survive Without Classical Taxonomy?' by Dr. R. R. Rao, 'Delimiting Species Boundaries in Indian *Pancratium* (Amaryllidaceae): An Unresolved Problem' by Prof. S. R. Yadav, 'Taxonomic Revision of the Genus *Smithia* Aiton (Leguminosae: Papilionoidaeae-Dalbergaceae-Aeschynomeneinae)' by Dr. M. Sanjappa, 'Plant Diversity in India: Status, Distribution and Conservation – A Review' by Dr. A. G. Pandurangan, 'The Role of Wild Balsams In Decorating The Western Ghats, India' by Prof. Jomy Augustine, 'Ethnomedicine and Traditional Knowledge' by Prof. T. C. Taranath, 'Analysis of Leaf Shape Variation in Convolvulaceae Using Elliptic Fourier Descriptors' by Dr. Vinay M. Raole, 'Flora of Sikkim: A Comprehensive Account of Angiosperms' by Dr. Debabrata Maity, and 'Botanical Investigations Related to Some Archaeological Sites from Maharashtra' by Dr. M. M. Sardesai.

The symposium was concluded with valedictory function with briefing of proceedings of three days symposium by the organizing secretary Dr. K. Kotresha, Valedictory address, Announcement, and distribution of awards to the respective winners by Prof. Santosh Nampy. The symposium received immense positive response from research scholars, delegates, students, and senior scientists. Vote of thanks was given by Dr. (Smt.) Doris M. Singh. Overall, the symposium was a fruitful endeavor creating a useful botany platform for all the faculties. The three day symposium was media covered by local and national level newspaper and memories were recorded in photos.

Dr.K.Kotresha  
Organizing Secretary,  
XXXII Annual Conference of IAAT and  
National Symposium - 11 to 13 November, 2022