

THE THIRD INDIAN GEOPHYTOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

The third Indian Geophytological Conference was held in Lucknow during December 8-10, 1979 under the joint auspices of the Palaeobotanical Society, the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany and the Botany Department, Lucknow University, Lucknow. One symposium entitled "Recent advances in Cryptogamic Botany in India" was also organised during that time under the joint sponsorship of the above three mentioned organisations.

In order to carry out the work connected with the third Indian Geophytological Conference the following office bearers were elected :

<i>President</i>	Prof. B. S. Trivedi
<i>Vice-President</i>	Dr. R. N. Lakhanpal
<i>Members</i>	Prof. S. C. Agarwala Dr. K. R. Surange Dr. Nityanand Dr. T. N. Khoshoo Dr. C. R. Krishnamurty Dr. Akhtar Hussain Dr. Kishan Singh Prof. J. N. Rai Prof. B. N. Prasad Dr. Ram Udar Dr. D. C. Bharadwaj
<i>Hony. Treasurer</i>	Prof. C. P. Sharma
<i>Secretary</i>	Dr. M. N. Bose
<i>Joint Secretaries</i>	Dr. C. L. Verma Dr. P. K. Maithy

Shri G. P. Pandey, Vice-Chancellor, Lucknow University kindly delivered the inaugural address. Prof. B. S. Trivedi, President, Organising Committee, welcomed the delegates and Prof. A. R. Rao, President, Palaeobotanical Society, gave the presidential address. Prof. A. K. Sharma, F. N. A., Botany Department, Calcutta University inaugurated the symposium.

The symposium was spread over into 9 sessions and covered all aspects of algae, fungi, lichens, bryophytes and pteridophytes. Out of 9 sessions, 2 were devoted to the fossil cryptogams. Dr. M. Guerlesquin of Laboratoire de Biologie Végétale et Phytogéographie, I.R.F.A., France gave a special lecture on "Some cytological and cytotaxonomical observations on European and North African Charophyta".

The contributed papers were also spread over into 9 sessions and both the symposia and contributed papers were read concurrently in the auditoria of the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany.

The special feature of the Conference was the presentation of the first Palaeobotanical Society International Medal to Prof. T. M. Harris, F.R.S., University of Reading, U. K. Dr. K. R. Surange, the then Director, Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany introduced the awardee to the audience and Prof. A. R. Rao, President of the Palaeo-

botanical Society presented the medal to Prof. T. M. Harris for his excellent work on the Rhaetic flora of Greenland and the Jurassic flora of U. K.

The conference was attended by many universities and institutions of India and also represented by Bangla Desh, France and U. K. The programme was very tight yet most of the delegates were present in either of the lecture halls. After reading of the papers, they made the discussion lively by their active participation and constructive suggestion. During lunch, coffee and tea break there were many informal gatherings and the delegates were busy in discussing mutual problems with their fellow colleagues. The new worker acquainted themselves with the established ones and reaped a rich harvest of knowledge from them by discussing their problems.

At the plenary session, Prof. S. S. Bir of Punjabi University, Patiala, on behalf of all the delegates praised the Palaeobotanical Society, the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany and the Botany Department, Lucknow University for their wonderful cooperation and understanding to make the conference a grand success.

R. K. KAR

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