



DR. S. K. BAKSI
(1931—1981)

The year 1981 witnessed the sad demise of Dr. S. K. Baksi, Department of Geology, Jadavpur University, a scientist of great calibre and promises. His untimely passing away deprived the palynological world, of an eminent researcher, popular teacher and a man with endless perseverance for knowledge. Born on 1st March, 1931 in Burdwan District, Dr. Baksi exhibited his brilliance during his early education days by securing merits and positions. He passed his B.Sc. in 1951 and M.Sc. in 1953 from the Presidency College, Calcutta. Later in 1969, Dr. Baksi was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Science for his work on the geology of West Godavary District, Andhra Pradesh.

From 1954 to 1961, he served the Standard Vacuum Oil Company as a Palaeontologist. Subsequently, from 1961 to 1967, he worked as an Associate Professor at the Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta. During 1967 to 1970, he was appointed as

a Senior Geologist and Party-Chief at the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, Government of India. His urge for teaching made him to join the staff of Jadavpur University, Geology Department in 1970 where he dealt mainly with the subjects of his fascination—Palaeontology, Palaeobotany, Palynology and Stratigraphy. Dr. S. K. Baksi visited several foreign countries in connection with his expertise and scientific pursuits. He was a Visiting Scientist to Leiden University, Holland. By his death, the Palaeobotanical Society and several other learned societies, namely—Geological Mining and Metallurgical Society of India, Palaeontological Society of India, Geological Society of India, etc., lost an active member. A devoted scientist, Dr. S. K. Baksi contributed about fifty original research papers, guided research to scores of students and colleagues and communicated to the fellow scientists through his thought-provoking lectures in innumerable scientific gatherings in India as well as abroad. His field of specialisation was Cretaceous, Tertiary Stratigraphy—particularly in Meghalaya, Bengal, Bamer and Neyveli. His work on the Barail Group of rocks in Meghalaya has initiated the oil exploration programme in the foot-hill region. He was also the author of a book named—‘Puragaiba Vidya’.

Those who met Dr. Baksi—even once—cannot forget this soft-spoken man, always smiling, at times lost in the deep scientific thoughts, with polished manners and warm friendliness. He is survived by his mother, wife and two sons. His untimely tragic death is a void—not to be filled up, a great loss to his family, to the society, to earth-scientists, and to his friends and admirers.

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