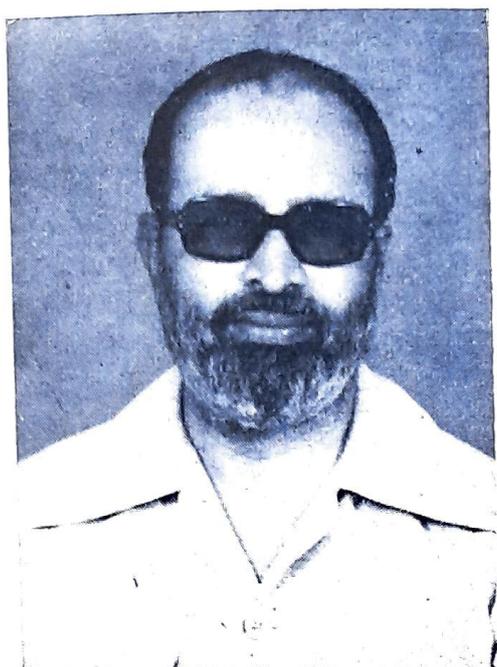


## OBITUARY



PROF. S. SAMBE GOWDA  
(1925—1981)

It is with a sense of deep sorrow that I write this note of obituary about late Prof. Dr. S. Sambe Gowda, who was my colleague for over a decade. Dr. Sambe Gowda was born on 15th June, 1925 in the village Somanahalli, near Byrapura, Hassan District, a place very familiar to geologists. After his early education, Dr. Gowda joined Central College Bangalore to work for his B.Sc. (Hons.) and M.Sc. degrees under the illustrious teacher, Prof. L. Rama Rao. He passed both the examinations holding first ranks in the years 1950 and 1954, respectively. He entered service as a Lecturer in Central College during 1950. Having been a student of Prof. Rama Rao, he naturally opted to specialise palaeontology in his Master's Degree programme. He worked as a Research Scholar in the University of Adelaide, Australia for sometime and later joined the Faculty in the University of Malaya during the late 1950s. From 1961-64, he worked in Basel, Switzerland, for

his D. Phil. degree. He returned to India in late 1964, and was a Pool-Officer under CSIR for sometime before he joined the Faculty in the University of Nigeria. Soon after, he joined the Faculty of Science, Bangalore University and remained there till 2nd February, 1981 when he breathed his last. He was the Professor of Geology at the Department of Geology of the University since 1973.

From this, it is clear that Prof. Gowda had a varied experience of working in different parts of the globe, which added glitter to his colourful personality. The study of lower plant life fascinated him in the beginning as he started with the algal groups in the Cretaceous and younger rocks. But at the end of sixties he opened new vistas in the Cambrian and Precambrian life, particularly in Indian sediments. This brought him name and fame within a short span of time. Till his last, he was vigorously engaged in the study of early biological remains and their interpretations, which made a honourable place for him in the international groups of earth scientists.

Professor Sambe Gowda was member of several national and international societies, scientific bodies and social organisations. He was the Fellow of Geological Society, London, German Palaeontological Society, Palaeobotanical Society of India, etc. He was the author of several original publications, besides being an outstanding and popular teacher. The geological and palaeobotanical world has lost a great researcher and an extraordinary scientist. He leaves behind his wife, two children and a host of friends and admirers to mourn his death.

The pleasant presence of Professor Sambe was never missed in a gathering or a meeting because of his open-hearted laughter, unbiased, frank-and-free discussions and typical warmth and friendliness—particularly with the young scientists. He cannot be forgotten because of the landmark he made in science and humanity.

C. NAGANNA

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