

PREFACE

“Fossil plants represent the debt that Botany owes to Geology”

Birbal Sahni

Last year we celebrated the Birth Centenary of Professor Birbal Sahni. Professor Sahni founded the Palaeobotanical Society in 1946 to promote palaeobotanical researches in the widest sense. He was a rare combination of a botanist and geologist and the unique position he held in both sciences made him eminently suited to lead palaeobotany in the country. His interests were wide and varied. He made significant contributions to botany, palaeobotany, geology and archaeology. His approach was truly interdisciplinary. His palaeobotanical contributions significantly added to the knowledge on evolutionary botany, stratigraphy, palaeogeography and other related fields. He felt that palaeobotany - the fusion of geophytoscience - need to be pursued with a deep insight into the geological and biological forces at work. He saw the entire geobiosphere as a single entity.

The Palaeobotanical Society and the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany jointly organized a three day “Birbal Sahni Birth Centenary Palaeobotanical Conference” at Lucknow from November 20-22, 1991. Palaeobotanists, botanists and geologists gathered on this occasion to pay their homage to Professor Sahni.

This proceeding volume contains 31 papers of varied interests, such as botany, palaeobotany, palaeobiology, geology, stratigraphy, palaeoenvironment, aerobiology, micropalaeontology, etc.

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