

SECOND INDIAN GEOPHYTOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

The second Indian Geophytological Conference was held at Lucknow on 11-12 March, 1978 under the auspices of the Palaeobotanical Society and co-sponsored by the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow.

The general president of the conference was Professor S. D. Saxena and Dr. D. C. Bharadwaj was the general secretary. Dr. K. P. Jain was the organising secretary and Drs. Hari K. Maheshwari and R. K. Kar were the joint organising secretaries. Drs. G. K. B. Navale, H. P. Singh, Shyam C. Srivastava and K. Ambwani were the conveners and Drs. R. N. Lakhanpal and M. N. Bose were the members. Professor K. R. Surange was the chairman of the inaugural function and Professor R. C. Misra was the chief guest.

Sixtyeight papers were presented in the conference and they were spread over into four sessions. The papers covered different aspects of botany and geology, *viz.* palaeobotany, palynology, palynostratigraphy, morphology, taxonomy, ecology, algology, mineralogy, chronology and archaeology.

The delegates from all over India representing various universities, institutions and government organisations graced the occasion. Most of the papers were appreciated by the audience followed by lively, enlightening and fruitful discussions. The chairmen of the sessions also raised to the occasion and provided valuable information. The papers read in the conference would be published in *Geophytology*.

The government of Uttar Pradesh was very kind to sanction a grant of Rs. 3,000 for this conference.

R. K. KAR

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Review—*Tectonic Geology of the Himalaya*, Ed. P. S. Saklani, 1978, Demy 4 to 350 pages. Illustrated. Price Rs. 195.00. \$ 40.00. Today and Tomorrows' Printers and Publishers, New Delhi.

The book is based on fifteen articles written by well known Indian and foreign workers. The areas covered in the papers are Kumaun Himalaya, Kashmir, Indus Tectonic Belt of Ladakh Himalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Nepal Himalaya, Bhutan and Eastern Himalaya. The topics relate to Deformation and Tectonism, fossil records of Lesser Himalayan rocks, structure of West Nepal, petrology, metamorphism and K/Ar age determinations of Eastern Nepal, Quaternary relief thrusts, East Nepal, Stratigraphy and structure of Bhutan and Eastern Himalaya, role of tectonics in the evolution of drainage system of a part of Kashmir Himalaya, comparison of Sveconorwegian and Himalayan tectonics, counterparts of Himalayan and Alpine anatomy, and the Himalaya—a modified arc system and the gravity tectonics.

The book is well illustrated by maps, cross sections and photographs. The tectonic map of the Himalaya between the river Kali and the river Beas based on interpretation of ERTS-1 imagery and published literature and the geological and structural map of Bhutan will prove very useful to workers and students. This is a welcome addition to our knowledge of the geology of the Himalaya and the Editor deserves our congratulations and thanks. One can look forward to volume two on Structural Geology of the Himalaya.

R. C. MISRA

Review—*Bryology in India : A Monograph*, by DR. RAM UDAR (Ed. Pama Primlane), pp. 200, 5 photoplates and 19 figures. Price U. S. \$ 35.00, Publ. Chronica Botanica Co., E/2 Jhandewala Extn., New Delhi 110055, India, 1976.

The book presents a cogent synthesis of all that is known about the Indian bryophytes to date alongwith an exhaustive bibliography. The subject matter has been treated under the two classes Hepaticae and Musci separately.

All the information pertaining to the Taxonomy, Morphology and Cytology of the Indian representatives of the various orders of the Class Hepaticae has been included in a systematic sequence. The account is accompanied with plentiful illustrations of the significant features in the various Indian taxa. The systematic account is followed by a synthesis of the information available regarding census, floristics and affinities of the Indian hepatic flora, palynology, spore germination and regeneration, morphogenesis, physiology and contributions towards the elucidation of Phylogeny of Hepaticae by Indian Hepaticologists.

The Musci of India have been treated under chapters dealing with taxonomy, floristics and distribution, protonema and bud formation, regeneration, apogamy, morphology and cytology.

The last chapter of the book refers to the few record of what appear to be fossil bryophytes from India.

The richness of information contained in the book makes it an indispensable reference book for bryologists, teachers and students of advanced courses in Botany.

D. C. BHARADWAJ

Review—*Fossil Algae, Recent Results and Developments*, Ed. Erik. Flugel, pp. 375. Publ. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, 1977.

The book contains 37 research papers contributed by distinguished scientists at the First International Symposium on Fossil Algae, organized by the Institute of Palaeontology of the University Erlangen-Nürnberg in October, 1975. The papers have been grouped under Blue-Green Algae and Stromatolites (14), Green Algae (2), Red Algae (4), Problems of Affinities (3), Biometry (1), Ultrastructure (1), Algae and Sedimentary Environments (12). A useful index of generic and specific names and a subject index has also been given.

The contents of the book give an idea about the present state and the varied aspects of research on Fossil Algae. Although the research papers have been grouped together they do not give a complete or connected picture of the group. Nevertheless, they do provide useful information for advanced students and research scientists seeking to know the latest findings about certain aspects in the Precambrian algae, the calcareous green algae or the red algae. Of special utility is the chapter on Algae and Sedimentary Environments giving insight into their role in sedimentation, their relationship with depositional environment and the palaeoecology of calcareous algal life. Among the papers of general interest, the one worthy of special attention is on statistical analysis of Fossil Algae.

On the whole, the contents of the book are informative and highly useful for universities and research establishments engaged in teaching and study of algae.

D. C. BHARADWAJ