

XXIV Annual conference of Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy (IAAT) and International Conference on Trends in Plant Systematics (TIPS)



The 24th Annual Conference of Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy (IAAT) and International Conference on Trends in Plant Systematics (TIPS) was organized at the Department of Plant Science, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu. The conference was held from 31st October to 2nd November 2014. The inaugural function was presided over by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. V.M. Muthukumar, Bharathidasan University. Dr. Prabha Y. Bhogaonkar, President of IAAT, graced the function as the Chief Guest. Prof. M.B. Viswanathan, Head, Department of Plant Science, Bharathidasan University and Organizing Secretary of the conference welcomed the guests and introduced the Themes of the Conference.

Honourable Vice-Chancellor, Dr. V.M. Muthukumar, receiving the Memento

Dr. V.M. Muthukumar, delivered presidential address and released the Souvenir and Abstract volume. Dr. Prabha Y. Bhogaonkar, during her presidential speech highlighted the importance of Ethnobotany. Prof. M. Sabu, Secretary, IAAT summarised the activities of the IAAT. Prof. Y.D. Tiagi Gold Medal Award Lecture was delivered by Dr. M.A. Wadoodkhan. His book entitled "Cyperaceae of Western Ghats, West Coast and Maharashtra" was released by the honorable Vice-Chancellor. Dr. P. Pushpangadan, former Director, Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, was honoured by the Vice-Chancellor. Prof. M. Sabu, University of Calicut, delivered Prof. V.V. Sivarajan Gold Medal Award lecture on "Indian Zingiberales: Retrospect and Prospects". Prof. A.K.M. Nazrul Islam, Bangladesh, delivered a lecture on "Climate, Vegetation and Distribution of Taxa and Diversity: A Synthesis". Dr. M. Sanjappa, Former Director of the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) & CSIR Emeritus Scientist, delivered a Lecture on the "Floristic Diversity in India: An Overview". Prof. M. K. Janarthanam, Department of Botany, Goa University, Goa, delivered a lecture on "Phytogeography in India: A forgotten Discipline vs Emerging Trends". Themes of the

Conference were Systematics of Flowering Plants and Phylogeny; Modern trends and Techniques in Plant Taxonomy; Biodiversity Assessment and Conservation; Phytogeography, Endemism and Threatened Plants; Ethnobotany; Medicinal Plants and Bioprospecting and Agrodiversity and Diversity of Stressed Habitats. More than 300 oral and poster research paper presentations were made during the Conference.

The following are the various best paper and poster presentation awards and awardees for best presentations:

1. Prof. R.S. Rao Award for Best Paper in Biodiversity Conservation: Mr. Alfred Joe, Calicut.
2. Prof. K.S. Manilal Award for Best Paper in Floristics (New Species/ New Reports): Mr. P.E. Sreejith, Calicut.
3. Prof. T.R. Sahu Award for Best Paper in Medicinal Plant Systematics: Ms. Sharadha K. Ulha, Nagpur.
4. Fr. Anthony Mukkath – K.S. Manilal Award for Best Paper in Modern Techniques in Plant Taxonomy: Mr. Anu Aravind, Thiruvananthapuram.
5. Prof. M. Sabu Award for Best Paper in Angiosperm Taxonomy (For Teacher & Scientists): Mr. M.M. Lekhak, Kolhapur.
6. Prof. S.R. Yadav Award for Best Poster Presentation: Ms. Bandana Bhattacharjee, Kolkata.

Release of Souvenir by the honourable Vice-Chancellor

This conference was sponsored by National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai; Ministry of



Environment & Forests (MoEF), New Delhi; Department of Biotechnology (DBT), New Delhi; University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi; Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO), New Delhi; Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi; Department of Environment, Government of Tamil

Nadu, Chennai. The 24th Annual Conference of IAAT was concluded with the valedictory function. The Valedictory Address was delivered by Prof. E. Ramganes, Registrar, Bharathidasan University. Dr. S.R. Yadav, Department of Botany, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, distributed the certificates to the awardees. Prof. M.B. Viswanathan, Organizing Secretary of the conference proposed vote of thanks.