

ANNOUNCEMENT

REPORT FROM A NEW BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE COURSE

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A Botanical Nomenclature Course workshop was jointly organized by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and ENVIS Centre on Floral Diversity-BSI in Kolkata from January 11–13, 2013 at the Hotel Presidency Inn Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata. This workshop was the first of its kind organized in India. Dr. Kanchi N. Gandhi (Senior Nomenclatural Registrar, Harvard University Herbaria, USA) was the Course Director; Dr. Paramjit Singh (Director, BSI) was the Course Convener; and Dr. P. Lakshminarasimhan (Scientist 'D', BSI) was the Course Coordinator. The BSI botanist late Dr. Mithilesh K. Pathak was helpful in organizing the workshop. There were 96 total participants, 51 from BSI and 45 from outside BSI. The participants included Research Fellows/Associates from BSI, faculties from universities/colleges, scientists from research institutes, one Project officer from Foundation for Ecological Security (Gujarat), and a Deputy Director of Public Instruction (UGC), Education Directorate, Govt. of West Bengal, Kolkata.

On the inaugural day, Dr. Lakshminarasimhan welcomed the gathering and outlined the course program. His talk was followed by two lectures: 1) The importance of Botanical Nomenclature by Prof. P.K. Mukherjee (Calcutta University) and 2) Taxonomy and Global Strategy for Plant Conservation by Dr. D.K. Singh (Scientist 'F', BSI). Two lectures were given by Mr. R.L. Mitra (Scientist (Retd.), BSI): 1) Scientific Names of Plants—Some Facts and Misconceptions (on January 11) and 2) Type Concept and Nomenclatural Problems (on January 12). Dr. Gandhi's lectures were spread over the three days, and he covered the following topics:

- 1) An historical overview of the botanical nomenclature from Linnaeus to the Melbourne Code
- 2) Review of the physical structure of the Melbourne Code
- 3) Preamble, ranks and names of taxa, and effective publication (Articles 1–28)
- 4) Validity of names, Part I (Articles 32–45)
- 5) Validity of names, Part II
- 6) Authorship citation (Articles 46–50)
- 7) Rejection of names (Articles 51–60)
- 8) Anamorphic fungal and hybrid names

In the concluding function on January 13, there was a lecture by Dr. Paramjit Singh on "Floristic Diversity in India: An overview." After his talk, certificates were distributed to all the participants. Valedictory remarks were delivered by: Dr. R.K. Chakraverty (Additional Director (Retd.), BSI), Dr. Kanchi N. Gandhi, Dr. P. Lakshminarasimhan, Prof. G.G. Maity (Retd; Kalyani University), Prof. N.D. Paria (Calcutta University), Dr. D.K. Singh, and Dr. Paramjit Singh.





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