

Preface

While celebrating superannuating of our revered teacher and guide Prof. B. N. Verma, sentiments and emotions broke down. An idea flashed down at the moment to present something special to our guru which could be memorial, a token of respect and befitting to his scientific temperament. Publication of a volume in his honor/ dedicated to him was instantly considered the only way to mark our respect to this mentor. The drive was on to collect contributions from contemporary phycologists with long working experience in the respective domain. It was a difficult time for the editor to select out of the contributions for the comprehensive volume. Participation of some close associates of Prof. Verma, however, could not be ignored. It was this reason that the conservative approach on Algae had to be dropped and a broader perspective was undertaken to accommodate these contributions.

The present compendium contains altogether nineteen research articles of which eleven are devoted to basic and fundamental aspects of Cyanobacteria and Algae. The biodiversity status of Chilka lake, algal flora in polluted environments and the botanical ramble among members of Cyanobacteria in natural and artificial symbioses speak of an in depth observations of expert in the field. The systematic study and phylogenetic treatment of the mixotrophic Euglenineae has also been discussed. Besides these topics of fundamental interest, biotechnological promises, soil reclamation and some experimental works concerning nitrogen metabolism, antibiotic and radiation effect of Cyanobacteria find a place in this volume. Remaining eight articles are concerned with higher plants and heterotrophic fungi. The ethno medicinal importance of some common vascular Cryptogams, the Pteridophytes, in the Aravalli range of Rajasthan have been discussed. Some horticultural crops and their biotechnological renaissance have been looked into. Spices cultivated in India and their known anti-microbial activities have been enumerated. Developing weevil resistance in an economic plant like Sweet Potato through tissue culture technique is

an important achievement in biotechnology. This has been discussed at length. The seedling diseases due to storage fungi of the crop seeds, the associated metabolic disorder and the study of mycoflora in plants belonging to Umbelliferae have been well described. The structure and behavior of eucaryotic chromosomes in Radish and over exploitation of Victoria Park in Gujarat causing the degradation of the forest are some of the contributions in the present volume.

The present treatise is thus hetero-organic ranging from procaryotic algae to Vascular Cryptogams to higher plants on one hand and on the other from mixotrophic forms to heterotrophs.

Editor is indeed grateful to authors and experts in the field for generously contributing their papers and thoughtfully extending all out co-operation, which made this effort a success.

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