

Preface

Man has always been fascinated by the diversity of life. Biodiversity, an inherent quality of all the living organisms, entails all forms of biological entities inhabiting the Earth – including prokaryotes and eukaryotes – wild plants and animals, microorganisms and macroorganisms, domesticated animals and even genetic materials like seed and germplasm.

The distribution and magnitude of Biological diversity or Biodiversity that exist today is a product of over 3.5 billions year of evolution, involving speciation, migration, extinction and relatively more recently human influences. Sustainable use of Biodiversity is a key component of sustainable social and economic development. The prediction that biology would dominate the global scientific endeavour since the mid 1950's has come true, and the time has come to realize the impact of advances made during the intervening period. Keeping in view an International Symposium on "Microbial Diversity: Opportunities, Challenges and Relevance in New Millennium" and "Current Trends in Plant Sciences" has been organized during 19-21 Nov 2004.

The present volume has been brought out in the honour of a well known mycologist, Prof. R.C. Rajak on his superannuation on 30th April 2004. This festschrift volume contains 40 reviews and research papers on the various areas of Biodiversity viz., fungal diversity, industrial applications, biological pest management, bio-inoculants, plant diseases, conservation of plant diversity, plant tissue culture, stress resistance and aerobiology etc., which provides a picture of the changing and new trends in biodiversity research. The papers in this volume are mostly invited ones from the eminent academicians from various universities and institutions. We are thankful to the contributions for their authoritative and thought provoking articles and also for their co-operations and active participation.

We are also grateful to Prof. G.P. Agarwal, founder Head, Department of Biological Science, Founder Dean, Faculty of Life Science, R.D. University, Jabalpur for his valuable suggestion. Encouragement and blessings for successful completion of this assignment. The editorial board is also grateful to Prof S.K. Hasija, Former Head & Dean, Dept of Biological Science, Faculty of Life Science, R.D. University, Jabalpur for his kind support and help at every step of completion of this book. We also express our sincere thanks to the head colleagues specially Dr. Anjana Sharma and Dr. S.S. Sandhu and Research Scholars specially Mr. Ajay Kumar Singh for their cooperation and help in various ways.

We are also thankful to the Registrar, Finance Officer, University employees who stood by us and gave moral and physical support in conducting the conference and compilation

of this volume. Financial support required from UGC, DST, MPCOST, DBT to various colleges and others are also thankfully acknowledged.

The sincere thanks are also due to AP cyber, Jabalpur and Shree Publishers, New Delhi for their meticulous care in composing and printing of this volume.

It is hoped that vast information contained here will help the Students, Teachers and Researchers alike in their pursuits.

Prof S. P. Gautam

Editor-in-Chief

&

Chairman, International Conference