

that bar is one micron long, hang on what am I saying ? it's ten microns long-oh dear, the chairman is giving me the two minute warning , it's difficult to give you a clear picture of this work in only eight minutes, but let's plough on, what was I saying ? ah yes, that the bar is ten microns long, now if we turn to the next slide, please, this is the result of a chemical analysis of the dark region that is near the centre of the thin section, is it possible to go back a slide ? well not to worry, you can see in the analysis how dominant- sorry what was that ? oh yes, the errors are plus or minus a per cent or so -that's the standard deviation, no it can't be, it must be the standard error of the mean-oh dear, the chairman says my time is up, can I beg half a minute - are there any more slides ? really ? well let's skip the next two, now this one is pretty important, it brings together several of the threads that you've probably been able to discern running through this talk, but rather than go through it in detail perhaps I should have the lights and just put up one or two key numbers on the blackboard- the chairman says there's no chalk, well it's all in the paper I was mentioning anyway perhaps I've been able to give you the gist of what we've been doing, I guess that's all I've got time for."

(Reproduced from *Nature*, v.272, 27 April 1978, p.743)

AN UNETHICAL PRACTICE

A paper by Dharun Mahato titled "Ground Water Quality in Weathered Singhbhum Granite around Karanjia, southern Bihar" was published in the *Jour. Geological Society of India*, v. 43(6), pp. 685-689, 1994.

It was brought to our notice that at least 7 paragraphs including a major part of the abstract and a figure is a verbatim copy from a paper published earlier by S.K. Lunkad and B.C. Raymahashay, entitled "Ground Water Quality in Weathered Deccan Basalt of Malwa Plateau, India" in the *Quarterly Journal of Engineering Geology*, v. 11, pp. 273-277, 1978 (Printed in Northern Ireland).

When this was conveyed to Dharun Mahato, the following reply was received from him:

"... I want to say that I have gone through my original manuscript. Some portion of the text of my paper is *similar* to a published paper of S.K. Lunkad and B.C. Raymahashay (1978) published in *Quart. Jour. Engg. Geology*, v.11, pp. 273-277. But the terrain, geohydrology, data, conclusions and references are different. The unfortunate omission of Lunkad and Raymahashay in the text as well as in the reference sections of my paper, is sincerely regretted. The unknowingly omission was due to *typing error* which led to this most unfortunate incident, for which I sincerely apologise".

The paper by Dharun Mahato in the *Jour. G.S.I.*, contains reproduction of word for word and sentence by sentence in sections of it from the earlier publication. This is a clear case of plagiarism. Mere expression of an apology, throwing the blame on typing is not adequate. Since the paper by Lunkad and Raymahashay was published in Northern Ireland it was not possible for most of us (even in the field of hydrogeology) to know this fact. We sincerely regret for the mistake which has occurred in spite of the care in getting the paper scrutinized before publication.

-Editor