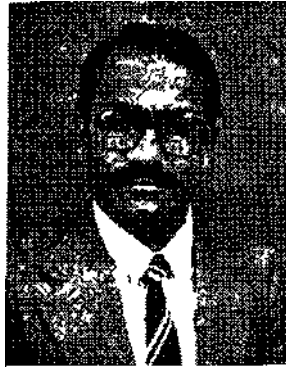


## OBITUARY



**H.M. Nagaraja**  
(1949-2002)

**H.M.** Nagaraja, Professor, Geology Department, Bangalore University, passed away on the evening of 21 December, 2002 at his residence at Prashanthanagar, due to a massive heart attack. Hailing from a rural background, he was deeply duty conscious with a firm belief in righteousness which he practiced in letter and spirit all through his life and influenced others around him to follow the same path.

Prof. Nagaraja was born in a small village 'Esthur Hosahalli' of Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore rural district on 06.12.1949. He completed his early education in Bangalore and graduated from Govt. Arts and Science College, Bangalore University in 1970. After obtaining his B.Sc. degree, he joined for M.Sc. in Central College which he completed with distinction in 1973. Prof. Nagaraja was influenced by the work of the well known micropalaeontologist Prof. L. Rama Rao. He joined under the supervision of Prof. S. Sambegowda for his Ph.D. degree on the understanding of Upper Cretaceous (Maastrichtian) rocks occurring South of Tethys. In the meantime he entered the Geology Department, Bangalore University as a Research Assistant (1974-1979) with teaching and research assignment and continued till the end of his life.

After the untimely death of Prof. Sambegowda in 1981, Dr. Nagaraja continued the teaching and research work in Micropalaeontology. His research activities included Biostratigraphy, Palaeoecology and Palaeobiogeography of foraminifera and ostracodes from the Cretaceous-Tertiary rocks of southern India. He was also keenly involved in geological and palaeobiological studies of Chitradurga Schist belt of Karnataka. He always readily made himself available to render advice and guidance to any needful student, researcher or teacher. Further, he assisted the University in many academic and administrative assignments

from time to time. He published several papers in national and international journals. He attended the 5th Iraqi Geological Congress at Baghdad, 11th International Symposium on ostracoda in Warnaco, Australia and the 30th International Geological Congress in China. He was a life Fellow of the Geological Society of India, Bangalore and the Indian Science Congress Association, Calcutta. He was also Fellow of the Palaeontological Society of India, Lucknow.

Apart from academic work, Prof. Nagaraja was actively involved in several associations and socially relevant activities for the benefit of the teaching community. He served as a Secretary of the Bangalore University Teachers Council and Karnataka Rajya Vishvavidyalaya Shikshakara Parishath (1986-88).

Prof. Nagaraja is remembered by all his colleagues, friends and relatives as a warm human being without any adversaries; as an advisor, friend, philosopher and guide. He was an ardent devotee and a role model for simplicity and piety. He was a soft-spoken gentleman with a concern for the fellow beings. His compassion knew no bounds. With his passing away, the geological community has lost a great soul and mentor. The most fitting tribute to him would be to work for his cherished goals. He is survived by his wife Bharathi, son Maurya and daughter Aishwarya. May god grant them the strength and courage to bear this loss.

The entire Geology Department of the Bangalore University is bereaved by his untimely death and joins his family in the prayers for his soul to rest in peace. May the spirit of late Prof. H.M. Nagaraja inspire *all of us* to work for the cause of geology and the ideals he stood for.

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