

BRAINSTORMING SESSION ON OUT-OF-INDIA HYPOTHESIS

An international brainstorming session was organized recently (November 22-23, 2008) at the Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi on the topical issue of Out-of-India biotic dispersal (convener Prof. Sunil Bajpai, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee). Scientists representing a wide spectrum of disciplines (vertebrate- and micropalaeontology, paleobotany, molecular phylogeny, biogeography, isotope geochemistry, geochronology, sedimentology) participated in this highly focused but multi-disciplinary meeting in order to evaluate the current status of the Out-of-India hypothesis and to discuss future approaches. Twenty

presentations were made at the meeting and the participants included those from the USA, Australia and China. The meeting witnessed an enthusiastic response from a number of young scientists who made presentations on different lines of evidence that bear directly or indirectly on the issue of out-of-India biotic dispersal. Significantly, the meeting led to the identification of a number of potentially important groups of organisms (both fossil and modern) that need to be analysed in paleontological, geodynamic, molecular and biogeographic contexts in an integrated manner. Several participants, including those from abroad, expressed their keen

interest in formulating research proposals, possibly in a collaborative framework. The meeting also considered the possibility of launching a major research programme so that this hypothesis can be addressed in a co-coordinated manner. Project proposals under this programme are invited from all those interested in any aspect of the Out-of-India hypothesis.

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THE END OF A LONG TRADITION OF SERVICE

I read with deep regret that the “Mineralogical Abstracts” has ceased publication. During its lifetime it worked as a reference work of great value informing all researchers on aspects of Mineralogy and

Petrology in different parts of the world. The abstracts were prepared with insight and dedication and many a young worker derived great encouragement to see the abstract of his work brought to the notice

of a very large number of readers. We pay tribute to this great service so nobly carried out all these years. – BPR