

## XXII Indian Colloquium on Micropaleontology and Stratigraphy – *Devesh K. Sinha, Ashutosh K. Singh and Kirtiranjana Mallick (Delhi University)*

The XXII Indian Colloquium on Micropaleontology and Stratigraphy was held from 16-19<sup>th</sup> December, 2009, under the convenership of Dr. V. Kumar at the Department of Geology, National College, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu from 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2009. The Colloquium was inaugurated by Prof. M.S. Srinivasan, FNA, a legendary micropaleontologist of our country, who was the Chief Guest at the inaugural function. In his address Prof. Srinivasan cautioned the young micropaleontologists of the country not to sideline the systematic micropaleontology due to dependence on instrumentation though he stressed on developing models and collaborating across disciplines. Providing a brief review of the rapid and significant developments in Earth Science during last few decades he suggested young micropaleontologists to have confidence in their observations and findings and simultaneously learn to appreciate and recognize the findings of the fellow Indian Scientists. Prof. Srinivasan also warned the young minds not to get exploited in the name of foreign collaboration. In his presidential address Prof. S.P.Mohan of Madras University highlighted the various applications of microfossils especially in

paleoenvironmental and paleoclimatic studies. He stressed on the need for culture studies to understand the species specific "Vital Effect" in the incorporation of trace elements and acquiring of the oxygen and carbon isotopic signature of the shell. The Guest of Honour, of the inaugural function was Prof. S.M. Ramasami, Vice-Chancellor, Gandhi Gram Rural Institute, Madurai. The inaugural function was glorified when the organizing Committee of the ICMS felicitated Senior Micropaleontologists Prof. M.S. Srinivasan, FNA, Prof. S.N. Bhalla, Prof. M.P.Singh and Dr. A. Govindan for their life time achievements in the field of Micropaleontology and Stratigraphy. The audience applauded the achievements made by these scientists through their consistent efforts through years. In addition Dr. R.J. Azmi was also honoured by the organizing Committee in the inaugural function.

There were six key note addresses and two invited talks at the XXII ICMS.

1. Surface Circulation in the eastern Indian Ocean during Plio-Pleistocene-Devesh Sinha, Delhi University.
2. Application of foraminifera in monitoring marine pollution - Rajiv Nigam, NIO, Goa.
3. Himalaya-Vindhyan connection - R.J. Azmi, WIHG, Dehra Dun.
4. Study of foraminifera off Myanmar - Rajani Panchang- NIO, Goa.
5. Cretaceous Oceans - A. Govindan, Formerly at ONGC.
6. Fossil algae in India :Retrospect and prospects: P. Kundal, Nagpur University.

In the first key note address, Prof. Sinha gave a detailed account of the surface circulation changes in eastern Indian Ocean based on planktic foraminiferal studies from the deep sea cores. Based on the detailed work carried out at Banaras Hindu University under the leadership of Prof. M.S. Srinivasan and later his own studies at the University of Delhi, he gave additional evidences of closing of the Indonesian seaway during Early Pliocene and attributed it to tectonism in Southeast Asian region. Late Pliocene Pleistocene surface circulation changes were influenced by waxing and waning of the Antarctic ice sheet and El Nino Southern Isolation, he demonstrated. Dr. Rajiv Nigam discussed various aspects of marine pollution and showed with the help of deformation in foraminiferal tests the effect of marine pollution. He pleaded strongly that foraminifera should be used for monitoring the degree of marine pollution and presented a case history from the western coast of India where industrial pollution has led to not only decline in foraminiferal population but also resulted in aberration in their tests. Dr. Azmi presented a model showing continuation of the same sea now occupied by Krol-Tal in Himalaya and Vindhayans in peninsular India. He gave a detailed account of the Shelly fauna first reported by him from the Vindhayans which were recently confirmed by Swedish scientists also, however the debate on the age of the fauna continues. Dr. Panchang gave a detailed account of the foraminiferal species recorded from sea around Myanmar. She stated that there are a large number of species to be named and described. Dr. Govindan gave a brief account of the Cretaceous Oceans. He highlighted the foraminiferal biogeography and evidences



Prof. M.S.Srinivasan speaking at the inaugural function. sitting from left : Dr. V. Kumar, Dr. Anbarasu, Mr. K.Raghunathan, Prof. S.P.Mohan, Prof. Ramasamy, Prof. M.P.Singh, Prof. S.N.Bhalla, Dr. A.Govindan, Dr. R.J.Azmi.

to show how the Cretaceous oceans looked like. Prof. Kundal gave a brief account of the developments in studies of Calcareous Algae. Dr. Shanker of GSI presented an invited talk on vertebrate fauna from Quaternary sediments of India. Prof. Anbarasu of National College Trichy gave a concise summary of history of the Quaternary studies with particular emphasis on sea level changes.

There were nine technical sessions and one poster session and each session witnessed large participation from young research scholars. Papers were presented on almost all the major microfossil groups. The colloquium witnessed participation from Universities, Research Institutes and Oil Industries including ONGC and Reliance Industries Ltd. On one hand the papers covered a diverse group of fossils and on the other hand studies ranged from Precambrian to Holocene. An interesting paper was presented which showed organic evolution in as depicted in the stamps. The collection was praiseworthy as it would infuse interest in general public about paleontology. Sufficient time was given for each presentation which was followed by lively debate and discussion.

Excellent arrangements were made by the organizing Committee for the stay of the delegates. Live academic sessions, healthy discussions, comfortable stay and delicious south Indian food with continuous drizzling from NE Monsoon made this colloquium a memorable one. The Auditorium was superb with state of the art projection system and could host more than 300 audiences. A large number of students participated in the deliberations.

The Valedictory function was held on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2009. The Chief Guest of the function was Dr. M. Ponnaikko, Vice Chancellor Barathidasan University, Trichy. The Convener Dr. V. Kumar applauded the help rendered by Dr. Anbarasu, Principal, National College; Mr. K. Raghunathan, Secretary, AHE, Trichy and Dr. Rajiv Nigam, NIO Goa, in organizing the Colloquium and honoured them by presenting Shawls. Delegates expressed their reactions over the overall deliberations given during colloquium. Several suggestions were made for the next colloquium. At the end Dr. V.Kumar,

convener of the Colloquium thanked the delegates for their participation. It was decided that the venue of the XXIII colloquium will be Department of Geology Bangalore University with Dr. N. Malarkodi as the convener and Dr. Nagesh as co-Convener.