

## NOTES &amp; NEWS

**Annapoorna-Neelkantha Expedition**

Dr. M. A. Rau, Regional Botanist and a Scientific Assistant, Northern Circle, Botanical Survey of India were deputed in October, 1959 for the Annapoorna-Neelkantha Expedition, organized by the Indian Air Force Trekking Society and they made large collections of Mosses from the Garhwal Himalayas. The party had the privilege of meeting the Prime Minister of India who showed keen interest in the activities of the Botanist members of the expedition.

**Exploration of Gandhamardhan Hills**

The vegetation of the Gandhamardhan Hills, lying between Padampur and Paikmal of Sambalpur district and Harisankar Chandil of the Bolangir district of Orissa has been botanically explored by the officers of the Botanical Survey of India.

**Collection from Bhutan**

Major O. P. Malhotra of the A.M.C., who accompanied the Prime Minister on his tour to Bhutan in 1958, presented the Botanical Survey of India with a collection of 54 herbarium specimens collected from Bhutan.

## SYMPOSIA

**UNESCO Symposium on Tropical Vegetation**

Dr. G. S. Puri, Director, Central Botanical Laboratory participated in the UNESCO Symposium on "Humid Tropics" at Ivory Coast in October, 1959.

Shri K. S. Srinivasan, Curator, Industrial Section, Indian Museum attended the Algal Symposium and read a paper on "Distribution pattern of Marine Algae in Indian Sea" held under the joint auspices of UNESCO and Indian Council of Agricultural Research at New Delhi from 7th to 13th December, 1959.

**International Society for Tropical Ecology**

The International Society for Tropical Ecology was inaugurated by Shri Sri Prakasha, Governor of Bombay, in January, 1960. Dr. J. C. Sen Gupta, Chief Botanist and Dr. G. S. Puri, Director, Central Botanical Laboratory, Botanical Survey of India have been elected President and General Secretary respectively for the year 1960-61.

A symposium on Ecology was held in January, 1960 at Bombay under the auspices of the society.

**Symposium on Plant Embryology**

Dr. K. Subramanyam, Deputy Chief Botanist and Dr. M. A. Rao, Regional Botanist, Northern Circle, Botanical Survey of India attended the seminar on Plant Embryology organized by Council of Scientific & Indus-

trial Research from 11th to 14th November, 1960 and read papers. They also presided over the deliberations of the symposium.

**Summer School in Botany**

Dr. J. C. Sen Gupta, Chief Botanist, Dr. G. Panigrahi, Regional Botanist, Eastern Circle and Dr. J. K. Maheshwari, Curator, Central National Herbarium of Botanical Survey of India attended the Summer School in Botany held under the aegis of the Ministry of Scientific Research & Cultural Affairs at Darjeeling in the month of June, 1960. Dr. J. C. Sen Gupta gave a talk on "Hydroponics" and also presided over some symposia.

**IASLIC Symposium**

Shri S. R. Banerjee, Librarian & Ledger Keeper, Botanical Survey of India attended two symposia at Calcutta in January, 1960, organized by the Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres. He read two papers entitled "Bibliographic control of Materials" and "Development of Libraries in India".

**Indian Science Congress : 1960**

Many officers of the Botanical Survey of India attended the Science Congress held in January, 1960 in Bombay and took part in the deliberations by reading papers and participating in Symposia.

## PUBLICATIONS OF BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

**Records of the Botanical Survey of India**

The following records of the Botanical Survey of India have been published and are on sale: (i) "*The Flora of Khandala of Western Ghats of India*" by Dr. H. Santapau, Revised & Enlarged ed. vol. 16 No. 1, Price Rs. 33.00 or 50 sh.-6d., (ii) "*The Monograph of Indian Cucurbitaceae*" by Dr. H. L. Chakraborty, Vol. 17 No. 1, Price Rs. 17.00 or 26 sh.-6d., (iii) "*Report on Botanical Tour to Bomdi-La, N.E.F.A. 1055*" by Shri K. S. Srinivasan Vol. 17 No. 2, Price Rs. 8.50 or 13 sh.-6d., and (iv) "*A Second list of species & Genera of Indian Phanerogams not included in J. D. Hooker's Flora of British India*" by Dr. B. A. Razi, Vol. 18 No. 1, Price 6.50 or 10 sh.-6d. They are available from the Manager of Publications, Civil Lines, Delhi-8.

**Out of Print Reprinted Local Floras**

The reprinting of the following local out of print Floras namely (i) "*The Flora of the Upper Gangetic Plains and of the adjacent Siwalik and Sub-Himalayan Tracts*", 2 Vols. by J. F. Duthie; (ii) "*The Botany of Bihar & Orissa*", 3 Vols. by H. Haines and (iii) "*The Bengal Plants*", 2 Vols. by D. Prain is in progress.

## EXHIBITIONS

The following exhibitions were organized by the Botanical Survey of India :

An exhibition on "Plants in the Service of Man" was inaugurated at Poona by Shri Sri Prakasha, Governor of Bombay in September, 1959. It was open to the public for a month and visited by many.

An exhibition, representing the cross section of the Flora of the country, which was organized by the Botanical Survey of India at Bangalore in January, 1960, during the sessions of the All India Congress, was highly appreciated and won a silver cup.

## RESEARCH SCHEMES

Six research schemes financed by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research are under the guidance and supervision of the Officers of the Botanical Survey of India.

The compilation of "A Dictionary of Genera of Flowering Plants" and "Aquatic Angiosperms" has been allotted to Dr. J. C. Sen Gupta, Chief Botanist and Dr. K. Subramanyam, Deputy Chief Botanist of Botanical Survey of India by the Monograph Committee of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research.

## SCOLARSHIPS

**Scholarships in the Botanical Survey of India**

The Ministry of Scientific Research & Cultural Affairs has sanctioned eight Government of India Scholarships for the Botanical Survey of India as per scheme of the 2nd Five Year Plan. This scholarship is for a period of three years and each scholar will be paid Rs. 200.00 per month. The scholars have to work under the guidance of experts on any of the following fields of plant science : Taxonomy, Cytotaxonomy, Ecology, Plant Morphology, Embryology and Physiology.

**Government of India Research Training Scholarship Scheme**

One Scholarship has been awarded by the Ministry of Scientific Research & Cultural Affairs during this year to Shri K. P. Janardhanan to work as a Research fellow in the Botanical Survey of India at Poona.

## LECTURES AND MEETINGS

**Lectures**

Dr. J. C. Sen Gupta, Chief Botanist, Botanical Survey of India delivered a lecture on "The Significance of Van Mahotsava" at Chinsura. The Councillor and Chairman of the Chinsura Municipality accorded him a warm welcome.

Dr. K. Subramanyam, Deputy Chief Botanist, Botanical Survey of India delivered lectures on (i) Herbarium Methodology and Mounting ; (ii) Evolution and Neo-Darwinism ; (iii) Nutritional Mechanism of the seed ; (iv) Flowers and (v) Embryo culture.

Dr. G. S. Puri, Director, Central Botanical Laboratory, Botanical Survey of India delivered a lecture on "Advances of deserts in India" at the Indian Museum, Calcutta.

Shri K. S. Srinivasan, Curator, Indian Museum, Botanical Survey of India delivered a series of lectures on Museum Technology at Calcutta University.

Dr. S. K. Mukerjee, Keeper, Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India delivered a lecture on "Plant Hunting in East Nepal" at the Indian Museum, Calcutta.

Three talks on Indian Cho-Oyu Expedition were presented by Shri R. S. Rao, Regional Botanist, Eastern Circle, Botanical Survey of India and they were broadcast from the All India Radio, Gauhati.

**Meetings**

Dr. J. C. Sen Gupta, Chief Botanist, attended the following meetings during this year :

- (1) The Governing Body meeting of the National Botanic Garden, Lucknow.
- (2) The Biological Research Committee meeting of the C.S.I.R., New Delhi.
- (3) The Plant Introduction Bureau meeting under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi.
- (4) The meeting of the Panel of Scientists, Planning Commission.
- (5) The Governing Body meeting of the Birla Industrial & Technological Museum, Calcutta.
- (6) The Committee for the preparation of Gazetteers.
- (7) The Museum Advisory Committee, the Central Advisory Board of Museum.

**Central Advisory Board of Biology**

The Second meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Biology was held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on 13th October, 1960 under the Chairmanship of Prof Humayun Kabir, Minister for Scientific Research & Cultural Affairs. Dr. J. C. Sen Gupta, Chief Botanist, Sri M. P. Nayar, Systematic Botanist and Sri S. L. Mukherjee, Office Superintendent, attended the meeting. The activities of the Botanical Survey of India for 1959-60 were reviewed and several members spoke appreciating the general progress of this Department.

**Botanical Garden, Herbarium & Museum in Manipur**

The Botanical Survey of India has sent a detailed scheme to the Manipur Administration in connection with the establishment of a Botanic Garden, Herbarium and Museum at Manipur.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Dr. J. C. Sen Gupta, Chief Botanist, Botanical Survey of India has been elected Vice-President of the Indian Science News Association, President of the Governing Body of Basanti Devi College, Calcutta, and a member

of the Governing Body of Presidency College, Calcutta. He is also a Councillor to the Indian Society of Plant Physiology and a member of the Board of Advisers, Jagadish Bose National Science Talent Search.

Dr. E. K. Janaki Ammal, Ex-Director, Central Botanical Laboratory on her retirement from the Botanical Survey of India in October, 1959 has joined the Regional Research Laboratory, Jammu as an Officer on Special Duty.

#### **Governing Body of the Central National Herbarium**

The Governing Body of the Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India has been formed with

Dr. J. C. Sen Gupta, Chief Botanist as Chairman and Dr. S. K. Mukerjee, Keeper, Central National Herbarium of Botanical Survey of India as Secretary. Other members of the Committee are—one representative of the Ministry of Scientific Research & Cultural Affairs and two representatives of West Bengal Government. Three meetings of this Governing Body were held so far.

#### **Presentation to City of La Plata, Argentina**

On behalf of the Government of India, the Botanical Survey of India presented 12 seeds of Lotus Plant and a living taxon of *Ixora* to the Municipality of City of La Plata, Argentina.