

OBITUARY
PROFESSOR DR. MUSTAFA SHAMEEL



(3rd July, 1941 – 13th May, 2013)

The soul of Dr. *Mustafa Shameel*, a renowned phycologist, phycochemist, developer of a new classification of algae, founder and patron of International Journal of Phycology and Phycochemistry (IJPP), mutely departed in the afternoon of Monday, the 13th May 2013 at 2:30 *p.m.* at his residence in Karachi, Pakistan. May Allah the Almighty rest his soul in eternal peace in heaven. Ameen! He had been suffering from PVD, RD, glaucoma *etc.* and became a ischemic during the last few years of his life. During his ailment he remained active and delightfully engaged in shaping papers of his students concerning phycological investigations until last breath that reflects his keen infatuation for phycological research.

Meritorious Prof. Dr. *Mustafa Shameel* was born on Thursday the 3rd July, 1941 at Rudauli (UP, British India) as the younger son of (Late) Mr. *Syed Amirul Hasan Quadri*. He obtained his M. Sc. degree in Botany from the University of Karachi in 1962 by securing 2nd position and Ph. D. degree in Marine Botany in 1972 from the University of Kiel, Germany under German Academic Exchange Scholarship. He also completed 14 months' Post-Doctoral research in 1977 from the same University under Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship. Apart from that he also obtained M. D. H. in 1963, M. B. Sc. in 1964 and M. Sc. (H) with Gold Medal in Homoeopathy from International Medical College, Lahore, affiliated with Nature Cure Institute, Bradford England. He had vast knowledge of homoeopathy but did not adopt it as a professional career and never practised it.

Dr. Shameel joined the Department of Botany, University of Karachi on 3rd September, 1962 and served as Lecturer during 1962-1972, Assistant Professor during 1972-1973, Associate Professor during 1979-1985, Professor during 1985-1999, Meritorious Professor during 1999-2001 and Eminent Professor (HEC) during 2003-2005. During his service tenure he worked as Assistant Professor during 1973-1978 in the Institute of Marine Biology, University of Karachi and remained there as Associate Professor during 1978-1979. He also worked as Director of Institute of Marine Science during 1994-1998 and Centre of Excellence in Marine Biology (CEMB) during 1999-2001, University of Karachi. While remaining abroad he worked as Research Associate in the Institute of Marine Science, University of Kiel, Germany in 1972 and in the Department of Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, Canada in 1976 and as Assistant Professor in the Department of Botany, El-Fateh University, Tripoli, Libya during 1977-1978. He rendered his services as Honorary Professor in the Department of Botany, Federal Government Urdu Science College now upgraded as Federal Urdu University of Arts Science & Technology (FUUAST), Karachi during 1998-2004. He acted as President of Pakistan Botanical Society during 2001-2003. He was elected as Fellow of Pakistan Academy of Sciences (FPAS) in 2005 and as Fellow of Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), Trieste, Italy in 2008.

Prof. Shameel knew languages (English, French, German, Latin, Urdu, Pushto, Hindi, Bengali and Arabic). He had more than 50 years' experience of teaching and research. He was an internationally recognized authority on marine benthic algae. He had published more than 330 scientific research papers in journals of international repute and seven books on various research aspects. Beside this he was an author of 20 popular articles on various topics and 23 poems especially for children. Dr. Shameel participated in several national and international conferences and presented scientific papers. He successfully supervised research work of 17 Ph. D. students of which 15 from Botany and two from Marine Biology. Dr. Shameel presented a new concept of barobiology of seaweeds in 1972 and reported for the first time the effects of high hydrostatic pressure on the physiology and biochemistry of marine

algae. Apart from taxonomic accounts of 28 new taxa of marine algae, Dr. Shameel emphasized on seaweed natural products, where 24 new compounds and described. Six new species of algae had been named after him. He proposed a new classification of algae by creating 22 new taxonomic groups in 2001, modified it in 2008 and revised it again in 2012. He laid down the foundation of International Journal of Phycology and Phycochemistry (IJPP) in 2005.

Dr. Shameel was a member of a number of National and International journals. He received “Meritorious Research Award” of the University of Karachi in 1997 and “Agha Hasan Abedi Gold Medal” in Botany from Pakistan Academy of Sciences in 1998. Prof. Shameel was honoured with the awards of “Izaz-i-Fazeelat” on 14th August, 2000 and “Tamga-i-Imtiaz” on 14th August, 2001 by the then President of Pakistan.

May Allah the Almighty bestow His countless blessings upon him and strength to his numerous students, colleagues, friends and members of family within country and abroad to bear this irreparable loss.

Ehsan Elahi Valeem
Institute of Marine Science,
University of Karachi,
Karachi-75270.
valeem786@uok.edu.pk.

(Received for publication May 2013)