

## **OBITUARY**



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### **Professor Dr. Muhammad Nizamuddin - a dedicated scientist (Jan. 11 1930- January 16, 2011)**

This is informed with profound sadness that Prof. Dr. M. Nizamuddin, an internationally renowned phycologist and pioneer in marine algal studies in Pakistan, breathed his last on January 16, 2011 at his son-in law Dr. Irfan's house in Karachi, Pakistan. He was buried the same day in a graveyard located in Sector 11, North Karachi. His death came as a shock to many of his relatives, friends, students and others. He was 80. May Allah, the most Merciful and the most Beneficent, rest his soul in peace and bestow blessings and forgiveness on him and also give patience to the bereaved family and his admirers. He was suffering from multiple protracted ailments for several years before his death and was able to walk only with the help of a walker. He is survived by two sons, M. Ezamudin and M. Arif and two daughters, Tafakur Anjum and Durr-e- Nayab. His wife died earlier, some ten years ago.

He was born on January 1, 1930 in Bihar, India where he also received his school and college education. Later he migrated to Pakistan and got his M.Sc. degree in Botany from University of Karachi in 1954. He then went to Australia to pursue his studies on brown algae under the guidance of the eminent phycologist Prof. Dr. H.B.S. Womersley and qualified his Ph. D. degree in 1961 from the University of Adelaide. He then returned to University of Karachi and taught at the Department of Botany until 1970 and established research on the marine algae of Pakistan along with his students. Later, he moved to Al Faateh University of Tripoli, Libya where he served from 1970 to 1991 and carried out classical studies on Mediterranean algae of the region. Afterwards he remained at Karachi until his death and devoted himself to research on algae at Department of Botany University of Karachi without having any position in or assistance from the University.

Prof. Dr. M. Nizamuddin was a dedicated scientist who devoted himself to research until his death without caring about positions and status. He was an ardent prolific research worker and was actively involved in research until a few weeks before his death. Prof. Dr. Andrew Campbell of Queen Mary University, London considers him 'a remarkable worker' (pers.com.). His latest paper was published as recently as 2009. During the last few years his health deteriorated and so did his eyesight but he did not give up and continued to research. Ms Sadaf Gul, lecturer in Botany often helped him in reading and writing the research articles. He published more than a hundred papers many of which appeared in the best international journals of repute including 'Nature' which is one of the highest impact factor journals in the world. His work on the order Fucales of brown algae may be regarded as a classic, but his works on other groups of algae are no less important. He also wrote several books and monographs some of which are mentioned below for the interested readers.

Nizamuddin, M & F. Gessner.1970. The marine algae of the Northern part of the Arabian Sea and of the Persian Gulf. 'Meteor' Forschungs Ergebnis, Reihe D, 6. 1-42.

Nizamuddin, M. 1981. Contribution to the marine algae from Libya - Dictyotales. Bibl. *Phycologia*, 54: 122, J. Cramer, Germany.

Nizamuddin, M. 1991. Some green algae of Libya. University of Al-Faateh 230 pp. Bern.

He reported many species of algae which were new to the science. His students and other workers also named several species in his name including the new genus *Nizamuddinina* Silva.

Dr. Nizamuddin's academic career is studded with awards and honors. He was awarded the presidential award 'Pride of performance' as early as 1970 for his outstanding achievements in the study of algae. He won a Fulbright Fellowship to work with the renowned Prof. Dr. G. F. Papenfuss at University of California, Berkley in 1966+. He was also awarded the prestigious Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship to pursue post doctoral studies at Kiel Germany in 1968 with the renowned Prof. Dr. F. Gessner. He was a regular visitor of Natural History Museum of Berlin University where he used to work with Prof. Dr. J. Gerloff, the Editor of *Nova Hedwigia*. He was also made a Fellow of Linnean Society of London in 1990 (Shameel, 2011).

He was very kind and compassionate to every one, even to his enemies and at the same time outspoken. His colleagues always spoke highly of him. He laid down the foundation of marine algal studies in Pakistan and produced an ever increasing chain of students after students; foremost among them are Prof. Dr. M. Shameel, Dr. Phool Zahid and Dr. Mubina Usman. I had the privilege of being his student as early as 1963. He is no more with us physically but his work on algae will keep him alive for very long and will also continue to live inside the hearts of his students and admirers. Finally, I feel like my other colleagues that all the works and publications of late Prof. Dr. Nizamuddin be compiled and also posted on a website. This will be a tremendous help to research workers in the field and also one of the best ways to pay tribute to his achievements. His research publications will be a "*Sadqa-e-Jaria*" as long as they are used and referred to by students and research workers.

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## REFERENCE

Shmeel, M. (2011). Obituary-M. Naizamuddin. *Pak. J. Bot.*, 43(2): 729-730.