

A REPORT ON THE THIRD BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE COURSE ORGANIZED BY THE BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA AT COIMBATORE

P. LAKSHMINARASIMHAN,¹ C. MURUGAN,² K. A. SUJANA,² AND K. N. GANDHI³

The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) held its third Botanical Nomenclature Course on 11–15 March 2019 at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB). The course drew 99 participants from across the country, including 55 from outside BSI (Fig. 1A). Er. A. K. Pathak (Director In-charge of the BSI) was Convener of the course; Lakshminarasimhan and Murugan served as Coordinator and Facilitator, respectively. Participants were provided in advance with the latest International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants (“the Shenzhen Code”) (Turland et al., 2018).

The first Botanical Nomenclature Course was organized by the BSI and the ENVIS Centre on Floral Diversity of BSI at Kolkata on 11–13 January 2013 (with 96 participants). This course was the first of its kind in India. The second was organized by the BSI at Pune on 9–12 February 2017 (with 118 participants). For both courses, Dr. Paramjit Singh (ex-Director, BSI) and Lakshminarasimhan served as Convener and Coordinator, respectively. For all three events, Gandhi served as Director and taught the courses.

Sujana anchored the inaugural activities, at which Dr. Mohit Gera (IFS Director, IFGTB) was the chief guest, and Dr. M. Sanjappa (ex-Director, BSI), Dr. N. P. Balakrishnan (ex-Joint Director, BSI), Dr. Y. Thulajappa (retired Professor and Head of Department of Botany, The National College, Bengaluru), and Mrs. Rajalakshmi Prasad (Gandhi’s biographer and former student) were guests of honor. After Lakshminarasimhan welcomed the guests, short talks were given by Balakrishnan, Sanjappa, and Gandhi. Doctor Mohit Gera delivered the inaugural address (Fig. 1B).

Gandhi began the course with a historical review of botanical nomenclature from before Linnaeus to the

Shenzhen Code. He then provided a detailed description of the Shenzhen Code, with special emphasis on validity of publication and solving nomenclatural problems of the participants. Various sessions reviewed the physical structure of the Code: preamble, ranks, and names of taxa (Articles 1–5 and 16–28 of the Shenzhen Code); status, typification, starting points, conservation, and sanctioning (Articles 6–15); effective publication; validity of names, part I (Articles 29–39); validity of names, part II (Articles 40–45); authorship citation (Articles 46–50); rejection of names, I (Articles 51–59); and orthography (Articles 60–62). Gandhi also reviewed hybrid names and fungal code. Each day ended with a 1-hour discussion session with participants.

On the fourth day, course participants were asked to evaluate the course and provide suggestions for future course contents. On the morning of the fifth day, Thulajappa gave a talk on his botanical expedition in Silent Valley, Kerala.

At the end of the course there was a Valedictory Function, anchored by Mrs. M. Anantha Lakshmi (Sr. Pres. Asst., BSI, SRC, Coimbatore). Dr. S. Murugesan (Scientist G, IFGTB) was the chief guest, and Sanjappa, Thulajappa, Dr. V. S. Raju (retired Head and Chairperson, Board of Studies in Botany, Kakatiya University, Telangana) were guests of honor. Gandhi was presented with a memento of appreciation by Murugan. After the chief guest’s speech and remarks from the guests of honor, feedback on the course was given by five participants: Mr. Nayankumar Gourimath, Mr. Mohd. Danish Husain, Dr. Sanjay Mishra, Dr. Sangita Das Chowdhury, and Ms. Drisya V., and all the course participants were given certificates. A vote of thanks was proposed by Sujana.

LITERATURE CITED

TURLAND, N. J., J. H. WIERSEMA, F. R. BARRIE, W. GREUTER, D. L. HAWKSWORTH, P. S. HERENDEEN, S. KNAPP, W.-H. KUSBER, D.-Z. LI, K. MARHOLD, T. W. MAY, J. MCNEILL, A. M. MONRO, J. PRADO, M. J. PRICE, AND G. F. SMITH. 2018. *International Code of Nomenclature for Algae, Fungi and Plants (Shenzhen Code)*. Regnum Vegetabile, vol. 159. Koeltz Scientific Books, Königstein.

We thank Dr. Anthony R. Brach (A, GH) and Ms. Gretchen Wade (Harvard University Botany Libraries) for helpful suggestions on the text, and Mr. V. Ramesh (BSI–SRC) for the photographs and videos of the event.

¹ Botanical Survey of India, Western Regional Centre, Pune 411 001, Maharashtra, India

² Botanical Survey of India, Southern Regional Centre, Coimbatore 641 003, Tamil Nadu, India

³ Harvard University Herbaria, 22 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138, U.S.A.



FIGURE 1. Third Botanical Nomenclature Course organized by the Botanical Survey of India at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. **A**, delegates of the course; **B**, inaugural address by Dr. Mohit Gera. At the table, from left to right, Dr. C. Murugan, Dr. M. Sanjappa, Dr. K. N. Gandhi, Dr. N. P. Balakrishnan, and Dr. P. Lakshminarasimhan. Photographs courtesy of V. Ramesh.