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印度の藻類学者故イエンガー氏とその業績

神谷 平*

印度の藻類学者 MANDAYAM OSURI PARTHASARATHY IYENGAR 博士は昨年末の1963年12月10日、印度のマドラスの住宅において突如他界された。行年満73歳。彼は印度の藻類学者として世界に知られ、特に淡水藻類の研究には業績が多く、彼の逝去は学界から深く惜しまれている。

彼は1886年12月15日マドラスのヒンズー教最高階級の僧侶の家に生まれ、ヒンズー教高等学校を経てマドラス大学に学び、1909年に藻類の研究で学位を得た。同年マドラス博物館の植物の管理者となり、1911年に教員養成の大学に転勤、1920年に省立大学の植物学の教授になった。1929~32年の3年間、英国ロンドンにある Queen Mary's college の有名な藻類学者 F. E. FRITSCH 教授の下で藻類を研究し、ロンドン大学で学位を獲得した。印度に帰って1933~44年までマドラス大学の植物学研究室の主任の席を全うされた。

彼は植物学の教授として教育は勿論、研究や植物採集にも熱心で紳士的で弟子や教授団からも深く尊敬されながら、印度の遅れた藻類学を築きあげ現在数多くの弟子達が活躍していることは衆知の通りである。

彼の藻類研究の業績は数多く、沢山な新種を発見し、新属、新科名を発表したが、特に *Fritschiella tuberosa* IYENGAR の発見は陸上植物への進化の出発点ともなる藻類で、系統発生学上重要な業績となった。また彼は協力者とともに熱心に *Journal of Indian Botany* を1919年に発刊し、翌1920年に

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は印度植物学会を発会させた。なお彼は印度の学会のみでなく世界の多くの学会にも認められて幾つかの評議員にも選ばれ、彼の学識は高く評価され、1963年には International Phycological Society の会長に選ばれた。

彼は単に印度の藻類学者としてのみではなく、東洋は勿論、世界の藻類学者として名を残し、その業績は世界の藻類研究史上に M. O. P. IYENGAR の偉名とともに永遠に残るであろう。

筆者はフウセンモの研究中、懇切な教示を得たことがあり、同氏に感謝すると共にここに哀悼の意を表し、インド カルカッタの Indian Museum の K. S. SRINIVASAN 氏の筆になる Prof. M. O. P. IYENGAR の稿を摘要し、その原文をも併せ掲げて、故人の業績を讃え多くの方がたに紹介する次第である。

1964年9月15日

PROF. M. O. P. IYENGAR

1886-1963.

The Botanical world at large shares with the Indian Botanists the sense of great loss in the sudden and quite unexpected death of Prof. M. O. P. IYENGAR on the 10th December, 1963 at his Triplicane residence in Madras, South India. He was just completing three score and seventeen years when the eventful incident has removed from the fraternity of leading Botanists one of its oldest and most valued Indian Scientists.

Mandayam Osuri Parthasarathy Iyengar, endearingly called by his more intimate associates as "M. O. P. Iyengar" or "Pacha" was born on the 15th December, 1886 in Triplicane, Madras, in a well known and respectable Hindu Brahmin Vaishnavite family. At the early age of 14, Iyengar Matriculated himself from Hindu High School, Madras in 1900, and continued his collegiate course in the Presidency College in the same town. After graduating in 1906, Iyengar took his M. A. Degree with a dissertation in Algae in 1909, and in the same year, he took services under the Madras Government as Curator in



By courtesy, I. C. A.
R., New Dehli

Botany in the Madras Government Museum. He did not, however, continue long in Museum service. In 1911, Iyengar switched over to the Madras Educational Services in the Teachers Training College. In 1920, Iyengar was appointed as Professor of Botany in the Presidency College, a premier institution with an established rich tradition and reputation. Iyengar continued in this capacity for about 13 years except for a small break of 3 years between 1929-1932 when he worked at Queen Mary's College, London with Prof. F. E. Fritsch and obtained his Doctorate degree of the London University. On his return to India, Iyengar's academic career moved to its zenith. He was appointed as Director of the Madras University Botany Research Department in 1933, which post he held without interruption till 1944.

Prof. Iyengar was an outstanding teacher of Botany, highly esteemed both by his students and the faculty. His devotion to Botany, in field, laboratory, class-room, herbarium and office was untiring. Apart from his merits as a teacher, he was also a very enthusiastic collector of plants. He maintained a strong belief in the value of field collections and field studies as effective and powerful media of education and learning. With this end in view, Iyengar conducted several botanical collecting and study tours to several places far and wide in South India. His field knowledge of the extent and nature of Indian algae was unparalleled. His collections of these fascinating groups of little-known plant species are extensive and intensive, rendering them as "unique" possessions of an individual private enterprise. He was a stimulating and energetic but modest teacher and his influence has been profound. He bequathes an honoured name to his colleagues, students and all others so fortunate as to work with and know him, several of them have already established respected positions in their own fields.

Algae was only one of many subjects that engaged the interest of Iyengar, in the scientific pursuits of which, he came out to be one of the greatest workers in this subject and indeed in the whole field of Oriental Algology. His pioneer spirit led him to intensive researches in Indian Algology culminating in a series of outstanding publications. Above all, to Iyengar is due what may be considered as one of the indications of his great versatility the record of having stimulated wide in-

terests towards the algology of India as a whole. To him must be given the honour of having stirred the popular appeal in this new field, as could perhaps have been done by no other scholar. Iyengar was a scholar of the old-school but with a modern vision. Through his untiring efforts, Indian algology constantly pushed forward its boundaries with entirely new approaches with emphasis on life-history and ontogeny. He was interested not only in the growth of plants but also in the growing of them, quite un-ostentatious; a window-sill, a porch or an un-obtrusive corner of a terrace in his home providing him all the requisites of a site for his algal cultures.

The discovery by Iyengar of numerous new species, a great number of new genera and even some new families of algae from India is an outstanding event of the present Century in the history of Indian algology. His discovery of *Fritschiella tuberosa* IYENGAR, is of great phylogenetic importance in tracing the evolution of higher land-plants, as it is now contended that algal groups have attained a certain level of somatic differentiation, the heterotrichous filament being regarded as the probable starting point for the evolution of land plants. Iyengar's publications are not only sound contributions to human knowledge, they are also best examples of precision and of clarity of presentation. A glance at his published titles will indicate his industry, broad interest, the degree to which he concentrated on scientific problems and on the theoretical and practical phase of his profession. With all his activities, he was never in a hurry to publish the results of his findings through strenuous labour. He was extremely cautious in his work and never published anything without being completely sure of it. He was always ready and willing not only to help but to do more than his share and to give unsparingly of himself. He had a good appreciation of the work of younger men.

Prof. Iyengar enjoyed several privileges and recognitions in the Botanical world in India and abroad. The Journal of Indian Botany which was initiated in 1919 by enthusiastic men like L. J. Sedgwick, T. R. D. Bell and P. F. Fyson, and which subsequently came out to be the official organ of the Indian Botanical Society, founded in 1920, had received considerable impetus and diligent services from Iyengar on whom the management of the journal was entirely vested in the capacity

of Editor, Business-manager and Treasurer. He enjoyed the confidence that was placed on him thus in 1925, for several years to follow.

Prof. Iyengar was elected a Fellow of several learned Societies as the Linnean Society, London, Indian Academy of Sciences, National Institute of Sciences, India, American Association for the Advancement of Sciences, and others. Prof. Iyengar had the distinction of being elected the President in the Botanical Section of the Indian Science Congress, 1928, the Hon. President of the VIII International Botanical Congress held at Paris, 1954, the President of the International Phycological Society, 1963, and the Indian Phycological Society, 1959. Iyengar received several honours he was the recipient of the first award of Prof. Birbal Sahni Gold Medal by the Indian Botanical Society in 1957, the first award of Sunder Lal Hora Gold Medal, by the National Institute of Sciences, India, in 1960. The too numerous new species, and some new genera of algae and fungi named after Iyengar by several distinguished botanists, and the Commemoration volume of the Indian Botanical Society, on the occasion of Iyengar's 60th birthday, would bear ample testimony to the great respect and high regard he commanded from the Botanical world.

Prof. Iyengar was a renowned sportsman. Foot-ball was his favourite game in his younger days. As an adept centre-forward, he displayed the art of making progress through swift adroit passes, wriggling through the thickest scrambles, thrushing forward with industrious and graceful dashes and deft placements, all through having a sure ball-control. The game he played was indeed classic without any blemish or untoward incident. Every event he participated provided for the *habitué* at Madras-grounds a delightful evening, sending the fans home happy. Later in his life, Iyengar took over to Billiards in which game also he maintained exceptionally high standards.

Prof. Iyengar maintained throughout a love of South Indian Carnatic Music. It always proved to be a matter of delight to hear him muse even in the midst of his perambulations in the fields in quest of possible new finds and in the matter of inquiry into or unravalling the mysteries of Nature.

To many of his associates, Prof. Iyengar was as much a perfect gentleman as he was a scientist. He was a man of quiet but firm deter-

mination, with a gentle and unfailing sense of humour. He never sought renown. He was most affable, compassionate, unassuming and generally of a modest and reclusive disposition. But he never deviated from his dedication to research. In short, he was a man of exceptionally high standards noble traits and lofty ideals. Even when his health failed during the last few years, he took the infirmities of his age as lightly as he could.

Prof. Iyengar died quite unexpectedly while deeply engrossed probing into some of his new discoveries through the microscope, a circumstance which would amply vouch for his "true love, unfailing enthusiasm, sustained vigor and interest" in his chosen field of algology. In his death, many have lost a staunch and a good friend. His death, indeed, is a sad blow to Indian Algology in particular. But the cherished and endeared name of Iyengar will still continue to live through his scientific legacy and in the memory of those who were privileged to know him and to work under him. Future algologists will continue to gain from his creative wealth of papers; and the best tribute that we can pay to Prof. Iyengar will be to follow his examples and scientific canons which have made his publications and accomplishments remain as a monument and constant reminder of the magnitude of his professional skill and attainments.

10th Aug., 1964.
Indian Museum
Calcutta (India)



K. S. Srinivasan

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学 会 録 事

会 員 移 動

(昭和39年8月16日より昭和39年12月15日まで)

新 入 会 (8名)

住 所 変 更 (11名)