

Notes

PROFESSOR S. N. BHALLA GOLD MEDAL

The Palaeontological Society of India instituted a Gold Medal in honour of Prof. S.N.Bhalla, an eminent micropalaeontologist, who retired from active service in June, 2002 from the Geology Department, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, U.P. The award is to be given to any Indian national in recognition of his/her contributions to micropalaeontology and allied disciplines. The initiative to institute 'Prof. S.N. Bhalla Gold Medal' was taken by a team of the students of Prof. Bhalla, led by Dr. Rajiv Nigam, National Institute of Oceanography, Goa, who organised the collection of funds for this purpose. The request was made to the Society to take the responsibility of selecting the person on the basis of the nominations received and also presenting the medal to the awardee on a suitable date. The award consists of a gold medal and a citation. The Executive Council of the Society agreed to this request. The nominations for the first Prof. S.N. Bhalla Gold Medal were received in June, 2003.

Prof. S. C. Khosla who is presently Professor Emeritus, Mohan Lal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, Rajasthan, was selected by the Executive Council of the Society on the recommendation of an expert panel. The



Prof. S.C.Khosla is seen receiving the Prof. S.N. Bhalla Gold Medal from Prof. B.S.Tewari, President of the Palaeontological Society of India

first 'Prof. S.N. Bhalla Gold Medal' was presented to Prof. S.C. Khosla on 21st September, 2004 by Prof. B.S. Tewari, the President of the Society in the presence of the fellows of the Society and eminent geologists. The award ceremony was organised in the K.P.Vimal Auditorium of the Geology Department, University of Lucknow, Lucknow. Prof. A.K. Jauhari introduced Prof. Khosla to the audience. Prof. Khosla was born in 1942 and obtained his M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees from the Panjab University, Chandigarh. He taught in different capacities at the University of Roorkee, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, Mohan Lal Sukhadia University, Udaipur and Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal. He has made significant contributions on Palaeogene and Neogene ostracods of Kachchh and Rajasthan, Miocene ostracods of Kerala, Siwalik ostracods of Nepal and intertrappean ostracods of East Coast of India.

Prof. Khosla has coordinated several research projects and has published a large number of research papers in international and national journals. Eight students have been awarded the Ph.D. degree under his supervision. He was an Indian correspondent to the International News Letter of Ostracoda.

The citation for the first Prof. S.N. Bhalla Gold Medal presented to Prof. Khosla is as follows:

"Dr. S.C. Khosla has made outstanding contributions to micropaleontology and is recognised all over the world as a specialist on ostracod microfauna of India and Nepal. With his vast experience and knowledge, he erected many new genera and more than 100 new species. He discovered a large number of biostratigraphic indices of Ostracoda from different horizons of the Jurassic and Tertiary successions of India and proved their value in interbasinal correlation.

Dr. Khosla always strove for excellence in his long academic career and produced more than fifty publications now widely cited by the scientific community of Ostracoda workers. Besides being an excellent worker, he was also a teacher par excellence who produced and inspired many generations of palaeontologists. He successfully organised IXth Indian Colloquium on Micropalaeontology and Stratigraphy.

In recognition of his contributions to micropalaeontology, Prof. Khosla is awarded the Prof. S.N. Bhalla Gold Medal for 2003 by the Palaeontological Society of India"

On receiving the award, Prof. Khosla thanked the Society for the honour bestowed on him. He also delivered a talk on the "Biostratigraphy and Palaeozoogeography of Jurassic ostracodes of western India".

Mr. V.K. Mathur, Joint Secretary, Palaeontological Society of India proposed a vote of thanks to Prof. S.C. Khosla and to the guests who graced the occasion.

Prof. Surendra Kumar,
Convener,
Advisory Committee for the award of Prof. S.N. Bhalla Gold Medal