



Obituary

Professor Dr. Mustafa Shameel (1941 – 2013)



We are grieved to report the sad demise of our friend and colleague, Prof. Dr. Mustafa Shameel, an eminent Meritorious Professor of Botany, University of Karachi, on 13th May 2013 at his residence, Ouj-e-Suraiya, A-338, Block 7, Gulistan-e-Jauhar, Karachi-75290, Pakistan. He had been suffering from multiple ailments for the last few years, but remained active and delightfully engaged in shaping papers of his students until he last breath. This reflects his keen infatuation for phycological research.

Prof. Dr. Mustafa Shameel was an authority on botany, biology and phycochemistry of seaweeds. He was the developer of a new classification of algae, and founder and patron of *International Journal of Phycology & Phycochemistry*.

Prof. Dr. *Mustafa Shameel* was born on 3rd July, 1941 at Rudauli (UP, British India) as the younger son of Mr. *Syed Amirul Hasan Quadri*. He obtained his MSc in Botany from the University of Karachi in 1962 by securing 1st division and 2nd position and PhD in Marine Botany in 1972 from the University of Kiel, Germany under German Academic Exchange Scholarship. In 1977, he completed 14-month Post-Doctoral research from the same University under Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship. Also, he did MDH in 1963 with 1st division, MBS with 1st division in 1964 and MSc (H) with Gold Medal in Homoeopathy from International Medical College Lahore, affiliated with Nature Cure Institute, Bradford England.

Dr Shameel served at the Department of Botany, University of Karachi as Lecturer (1962-1972), Assistant Professor (1972-1973), Associate Professor (1978-1979), Professor (1985-1999), Meritorious Professor (1999-2001) and HEC

Eminent Professor (2003-2005). He also worked as Director, Institute of Marine Science (1994-1998) and Centre of Excellence in Marine Biology (1999-2001), University of Karachi. He was the President of Pakistan Botanical Society during 2001-2003.

Prof. Dr. Shameel was elected as Fellow of Pakistan Academy of Sciences in 2005 and as Fellow of The Academy of Sciences for the Developing World, Trieste, Italy (TWAS) in 2008.

Prof Shameel had more than 50-year experience of teaching and research. He was a globally recognized authority on marine benthic algae. He published more than 330 scientific research papers in journals of international repute and 7 books with emphasis on marine algae of the Baltic, North, Mediterranean & Arabian seas. He participated in several national and international conferences and presented scientific papers. He supervised research work of 17 PhD students, 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, he has emphasized on seaweed natural products, where 24 new compounds such as sterols, terpenes, glycosides and other secondary metabolites have been isolated and described. Six new species of algae have been named after him like *Ulothrix shameelii* Faridi in Faridi MAF, Anjum G & Haq I 1982:183 Pak J Bot 14 (2): 181-188, *Scinaia shameelii* Afaq-Husain S 1996: 446 Candollea 51 (2): 445-459, *Stypopodium shameelii* Nizamuddin M & Aisha K 1996:128 Pak J Bot 28 (2): 127-141, *Codium shameelii* Nizamuddin M 1997:179 Pak J Bot 29 (2): 179-184

and *Ceratium shameelii* Ghazala B 2009:55 Int J Phycol Phycochem 5(1): 55-56. He developed a new concept of phycochemistry in 1990, proposed a new classification of algae by creating 22 new taxonomic groups in 2001, modified in 2008 and revised it in 2012. After his retirement in 2001, he spent an amount of Rs. 2,25,000/- from his provident fund to lay down the foundation of *International Journal of Phycology and Phycochemistry* (IJPP) in 2005 as a biannual publication.

Dr. Shameel has been a member of the Editorial Board of Pakistan Journal of Botany, Pakistan Journal of Marine Sciences, Marine Research, Biological Research Journal and Journal of Natural History & Wildlife and FUUAST Journal of Biology. He served as Editor-in-Chief of Pakistan Journal of Marine Biology (1999-2001), and as Chief Editor of International Journal of Phycology & Phycochemistry (2005-2010). He received “Meritorious Research Award” of the University

of Karachi (1997) and “Agha Hasan Abedi Gold Medal” in Botany from Pakistan Academy of Sciences (1998). He was assigned 10th National Ranking in Biology in 1999 as well as 2000, by Pakistan Council for Science & Technology. In recognition of his outstanding contributions to scientific research, Prof. Shameel was awarded “*Izaz-i-Fazeelat*” on 14th August 2000 and “*Tamga-i-Imtiaz*” on 14th August 2001 by the President of Pakistan.

Professor Shameel had a charming and amiable personality and had many friends among the scientific community. May Allah the Almighty bestow his countless blessings upon him and strength to his numerous students, colleagues, friends and members of his family within the country and abroad to bear this irreparable loss. Ameen!

Prof. Dr. Viqar Uddin Ahmad, HI, SI