

OBITUARY

Prof. P. N. GANAPATI

(1910-1984)

It is with profound sorrow that I record here the sad demise of our beloved Professor Ponnani Narayana Ganapati, an eminent marine biologist of India, on 5th January 1984 at the age of 73. The death occurred suddenly at Bombay on his return from a 6 months private visit to the United States. Born on 15th July 1910 in a small village near Palghat in Kerala, he had a brilliant academic career to his credit. He had his early education at Ernakulum. He completed his graduation from the Presidency College at Madras in 1932 and took his M. A. degree in Zoology in 1934, M. Sc. degree in 1936 and D. Sc. degree in 1942 from the University of Madras. Later, he worked for a brief period in the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute at Mandapam and then proceeded abroad to receive advanced research training in parasitology at the Molteno Institute of Parasitology, U. K. Cambridge for a period of over two years. After his return from England in 1949, Professor Ganapati joined the Department of Zoology at Andhra University, Waltair. A few years later, he became the Head of the Department of Zoology, succeeding his predecessor and his own teacher, Professor R. Gopala Iyer, who was also an eminent educationist and a pioneering marine biologist of the time. Professor Ganapati held this position till the date of his retirement in 1970. Since then he continued there as an Emeritus Professor and later as an Honorary Professor, guiding research of a band of dedicated workers on marine ecology. In 1978, he was invited on a short assignment by the Berhampur University at Orissa to organize the Department of Marine Sciences and initiate postgraduate and research courses of study. He was there for two years.

Although Professor Ganapati started his career as a protozoologist, after joining the Andhra University, his valuable contribution to marine biology for nearly two decades distinguished him as a pioneer in this field. He was largely responsible for organizing a systematic oceanographic research in India in collaboration with the other renowned oceanographers of the time, as Dr. E. C. LaFond and late Professor C. Mahadevan. His foresight in undertaking various research projects involving intensive investigations of the marine environment around Waltair paid rich dividends and left a landmark in the field. The work was mainly related to diverse groups of marine fauna of differ-

ent habitats on Waltair Coast, as evidenced from the list of publications appended at the end of this article. He was also in-charge of many scientific projects on marine and estuarine biology sponsored by the F. R. I., I. C. A. R., C. S. I. R., U. G. C., I. N. S. A., and other organizations. His active participation in the International Indian Ocean Expedition during the years 1958-63, has resulted in the collection of a very rich data and valuable information pertaining to the hydrography, biology and distribution of the fauna of the seas around India. With indefatigable energy and zeal for tireless work, he gave ample encouragement and valuable guidance to his students that resulted in the publication of over 250 useful research papers on diverse aspects. About 25 candidates also obtained their Doctorate Degrees under his able supervision.

Professor Ganapati is also to be well remembered for the valuable services he rendered in the development of the Department of Zoology at Andhra University. Although, the department initially had had only one wing in the Erskine College of Natural Sciences, with constant efforts he acquired a far more enviable space to accommodate all the work for teaching and research. The laboratories were well furnished with all the necessary modern equipments for zoological teaching and research. The department was maintained scrupulously clean and tidy. The whole atmosphere was kept quite conducive for learning and research. A decent museum representing a rich collection local fauna was built and an animal-house maintained. He was also responsible for the construction of a new two-storied building facing the sea exclusively for marine biological investigations. Above all, he is well remembered by his students as a good teacher, doing full justice to the subjects he taught. His devotion to departmental work was such that he used to attend office even on Sundays and other holidays. The department he developed was really his first love and he chose to settle down at Waltair even after his retirement.

My close association with Professor Ganapati for more than a decade showed that despite the high position he held and the strict discipline he maintained, he was in practice very simple, generous and kind-hearted. He always had a soft corner for people in difficulties. He particularly liked and helped diligent people. He left an indelible impression on all people, academic or otherwise, with whom he came into contact.

Professor Ganapati participated in many national and international conferences related to Zoology and Marine Biology. He was a Fellow/Member of many learned scientific societies, such as Indian National

Academy of Sciences, Indian Academy of Sciences, Zoological Society of India, Marine Biological Association of India, etc. In various capacities he served several national and international organizations as UNESCO, INCOR, SCOR, IOBC, ICAR, CSIR, ZSI, FRI and a number of Universities. To his credit, he has a good number of admirers, particularly his students, who are now occupying high positions in India and abroad.

He is now survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters.

G. C. RAO

List of Publications of Professor P. N. Ganapati.

<i>Author</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Title, Journal, Vol., No. P.</i>
1. Ganapati, P. N. and Aiyar, R. G.	1937	Life-history of a dicystid Gregarine <i>Lecudina brasili</i> n. sp. parasitic in the gut of <i>Lumbriconereis</i> sp. <i>Arch. fur protistenk.</i> , 89, 113-132.
2. Ganapati, P. N.	1938	Cytoplasmic inclusions in the Gregarine <i>Lecudina brasili</i> parasitic in the gut of <i>Lumbriconereis</i> sp. <i>Cytologica</i> , 9, 86-90.
3. Ganapati, P. N.	1941	On a New Myxosporidian <i>Henneguya otolithi</i> n. sp. a tissue parasitic from the bulbus arteriosus of two species of fish of the genus <i>Otolithus</i> . <i>Proc. Ind. Acad. Sci.</i> , 13, 134-150.
4. Ganapati, P. N.	1945	The development and sporogony of a Coccidian <i>Myriospora gopalai</i> n. sp. parasitic in the gut of <i>Cirratulus filiformis</i> Keferstein. <i>Proc. Ind. Acad. Sci.</i> , 22, 144-163.
5. Ganapati, P. N.	1946	On <i>Lecudina pellucida</i> (Koll.) Mingazzini (1891) from the gut of <i>Nereis chilkaensis</i> Southern. <i>Proc. Ind. Acad. Sci.</i> , 23, 211-227.
6. Ganapati, P. N.	1946	Notes on some more Gregarines from Polychaetes of the Madras coast. <i>Proc. Ind. Acad. Sci.</i> , 23, 228-248.

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| 7. Ganapati, P. N. | 1948 | Cultivation of <i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i> in the developing chick embryo. <i>Nature</i> , 162, 963-964. |
| 8. Ganapati, P. N. & Tate, P. | 1949 | On the Gregarine <i>Lankesteria culicis</i> (Ross) 1898, from the mosquito <i>Aedes (Finlaya) geniculatus</i> (Oliver). <i>Parasitology</i> , 39, 291-294. |
| 9. Ganapati, P. N. | 1952 | The morphology and life-history of a Coccidian <i>Myriospora polydora</i> n. sp. parasitic in the gut of <i>Cirratulus filiformis</i> Keferstein. <i>Arch. fur protistenk.</i> , 98, 71-90. |
| 10. Ganapati, P. N. and K. Krishnan Nayar. | 1952 | Occurrence of the limbless lizard <i>Barkudia insularis</i> Annandale at Waltair. <i>Curr. Sci.</i> , 21, 105-106. |
| 11. Ganapati, P. N. & R. Nagabhushanam. | 1953 | Sex changes in a wood-boring bivalve Mollusc, <i>Martesia striata</i> (Linn.) <i>Curr. Sci.</i> , 22, 345-346. |
| 12. Ganapati, P. N. & Satyanarayana Rao, T. S. | 1954 | Studies on the Chaetognatha of the Visakhapatnam coast : Part I. Seasonal fluctuations in relation to salinity and temperature. <i>Andhra Univ. Mem. Oceanogr. Ser. 49</i> , 1, 143-150. |
| 13. Ganapati, P. N. & Sreeramachandramurthy, V. | 1954 | Salinity and temperature variations of the surface waters off the Visakhapatnam coast. <i>Andhra Univ. Mem. Oceanogr. Ser. 49</i> , 1, 125-142. |
| 14. Ganapati, P. N. & V. Ramamohana Rao. | 1954 | Studies on planktonic copepods : Seasonal fluctuations in the distribution with reference to salinity and temperature. <i>Andhra Univ. Mem. Oceanogr. Ser. 49</i> , 1, 151-162. |
| 15. Ganapati, P. N. & K. Hanumantha Rao. | 1954 | On the black-grub disease in the fresh-water carp <i>Catla catla</i> . <i>Curr. Sci.</i> , 23, 401-402. |

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| 16. Ganapati, P. N. & C. S. Mrutyunjaya Devi. | 1954 | On the life-history of a new Cepheline gregarine <i>Gregarina poecilocerum</i> sp. nov. from the gut of the grass hopper, <i>Poecilocerus pictus</i> (Fabr.) <i>J. Zool. Soc. India</i> , 6, 133-144. |
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| 20. Ganapati, P. N. & R. Nagabhushanam. | 1955 | Crustacean wood-borers in the Visakhapatnam harbour, <i>Curr. Sci.</i> , 24, 200-201. |
| 21. Ganapati, P. N. & R. Nagabhushanam. | 1955 | Notes on the biology of some Wood-boring organisms in the Visakhapatnam harbour. |
| 23. Ganapati, P. N. & K. Hanumantha Rao | 1955 | On <i>Bothriocephalus indicus</i> sp. nov. (Cestoda) from the gut of the marine fish <i>Saurida tumbil</i> (Bloch). <i>J. Zool. Soc. India</i> , 7, 2, 177-181. |
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| 25. Ganapati, P. N., E. C. La Fond and P. V. Bhavanarayana. | 1956 | On the vertical distribution of chemical constituents in the shelf waters off Waltair. <i>Proc. Indian Acad. Sci.</i> , 44, 68-72. |
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<i>Proc. Ist All India Congr. Zool.</i> , Part II, 316-320. |
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