

BOOK REVIEWS

growth promoting rhizobia (PGPRs) and the need to understand the mechanism of action of PGPRs.

There are a few reviews which discuss the structure, development and current state of research of various plant organelles/structures or processes like the endodermis, membrane microdomains, photosystem II assembly, pectin biosynthesis, development and ripening of fruit, growth mechanism of tip-growing plants

and systemic acquired resistance. While it is not possible to provide a reasonable summary of all these in this review, it does not indicate that the topics that received little or no mention in this review are less important or interesting for the readers of *ARPB*. Overall, this volume, like many of its preceding volumes, contains a comprehensive coverage of subjects and issues challenging the plant science community and their growing in-

terface with agriculture, industry and medicine.

NAVJYOTI CHAKRABORTY
NANDULA RAGHURAM*

*School of Biotechnology,
GGS Indraprastha University,
Dwarka,
New Delhi 110 078, India
e-mail: raghuram98@hotmail.com

PERSONAL NEWS

Shah Vinodkant Chunilal (1929–2013)

Shah Vinodkant Chunilal, an outstanding biologist turned geneticist, passed away in the US on 25 March 2013.

An excellent teacher, Shah served on various academic positions. He taught at the universities in Sydney, Baroda, Delhi and Ahmedabad. He was Vice-Chancellor of Bhavnagar University and M.S. University of Baroda. He devoted much of his time to promote education in Gujarat. He took up teaching radiation biology and cell biology in the University departments at PG level while closely working with the well-known cell biologist Herbert Taylor.

After obtaining his M Sc from the M.S. University, Baroda, Shah went to the US to pursue MS where he also obtained a Ph D in 1961 from Columbia University, New York under the supervision of J. Herbert Taylor, followed by a D Sc from Arizona. He closely worked with the well-known geneticist, Monroe W. Strickberger. Shah was awarded the Chancellor's Gold Medal for his excellent academic record.

Using special culture media, Shah became one of the pioneers on amphibian cell cultures in association with S. R. V. Rao at Delhi University. He then moved to Department of Zoology, Gujarat University where he developed mammalian tissue and cell culture laboratories to

work on genetic toxicology of antibiotics under *in vitro* conditions. Thereafter, he forayed into the field of cytogenetics, especially that of the genetic disorders like Down syndrome, infertility and others. He specialized in the study of 'Y' chromosome of humans and the genetics of chloroplast in plant cells.



Shah also helped in establishing human genetic laboratories and institutes in India. It was during this time that he linked up with numerous hospitals, medical colleges and institutes to promote human genetics research in Gujarat. He was associated with the Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute (GCRI) and the Jivraj Mehta Medical Foundation as a service to patients suffering from cancer and genetic disorders.

Shah was a life member of national and international journals like *Acta Histochemica*, *Nature Genetics*, *Cell Biology International* and others. He contributed significantly to the field of life sciences. He edited several books, chapters and published about 90 research articles. He was an elected fellow of the Indian National Science Academy and Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences.

Shah was a recipient of the Vikram Sarabhai Award, the Rotary Foundation Fellowship for Foreign Studies, University Fellowship and Scholar of Columbia University, British Council Fellowship and CSIR Professor emeritus.

He was advisor to the Government of Gujarat, Cadila Labs, GCRI, B. V. Patel Pharmaceutical Education and Research Development (PERD) Center, Ahmedabad and was President of Gujarat Science Academy as well as ex-Sessional President (Zoology), Indian Science Congress.

Shah was born on 27 November 1929 in Sankheda, district Baroda and is survived by his wife Rasila and three daughters, residing in USA.

MANDAVA V. RAO

*Department of Zoology,
School of Sciences, Gujarat University,
Ahmedabad 380 009
e-mail: zooldeptgu@satyam.net.in*
