

romantic about these helpless, half-starved and disease-ridden people and we will make no apologies for endeavouring to uplift their living conditions' (p. 152).

Taib Mahmud, the Chief Minister of Sarawak opines that 'the Penan should not be left to roam the jungles like the Orang-utans' (p. 152). Taking cues from the political leadership, one Malaysian bureaucrat said: 'The indigenous people I have spoken to want to be part of modern society. Sarawak has a large population of young Penan or Kenyah that no longer care about the preservation of culture or their traditional way of life. They want gadgets, cars, nice clothes, and need to learn to survive in the modern economy. They are not interested in picking some fruit in the forest, collecting bananas, hunting pigs. They instead all want to drink beer, get their internet, watch their DVDs, get involved in life' (p. 150).

Another official makes a pitch for the modern economy: 'In a way development is like disturbing a hornets' nest, for it shakes people out of their old system. If you are living in the jungle and have to spend two hours going to school each way, you are not making good economic use of your time, not going to escape poverty. What to do with these people? Take them out of the jungle, don't just give them cash, but train them, embed them in a sense of modernity. Fix them into a community, teach them about the cash economy, investment and savings. Teach them about contract farming, agricultural processing, and other semi-skilled jobs' (p. 150-2).

The NGO respondents tell the authors how policy actually translates on the ground. One explained that 'the Sarawak indigenous people, especially the Penan, do not cultivate land, are not sedentary, and are not going to change. Yet the land code in Sarawak places the onus on communities to establish a claim and accrue evidence that they own the land' (p. 158). Another went on to enumerate the ways in which the odds are stacked against the tribes: 'There are really five ways in which the state government in Sarawak uses the law and the land codes to oppress indigenous people and push through projects. The first is by setting unfair standards for indigenous land tenure. They won't recognize community maps or ancestral claims so that they can claim that the land belongs to the state. The second is by foreclosing access to foraging grounds by encroaching on

where indigenous communities live. The third is by failing to give indigenous people identity cards so that they cannot vote. The fourth is by giving unfair compensation for relocation and resettlement, sometimes just a couple of pigs for relocating an entire village, or giving people "land" but of a lesser quality than the type of land lost, i.e. not as good, in swampy areas, infertile, or with limited or difficult access to plots. The fifth is by making it criminal to oppose projects, by jailing protestors and opponents of the state. I cannot think of a single project energy-wise in Sarawak that has not committed these types of impacts or grievances' (p. 158).

There are also a few accounts of people who were relocated. One elder stated: 'Before we were relocated, we needed no money. We could walk in front of our longhouse and there was the forest, the river, there was everything we needed. Here, we are surrounded, boxed in, blocked. Our way of life has changed forever' (p. 164-6). A person from the Penan tribe said: 'Food is very far from here, and our dogs have forgotten how to hunt. No matter what, we have to stay. We have little money, we need a forest to survive. Loggers take our fruit trees, our firewood, our wood for boats, whatever is in the forest. They are like a great wave taking everything with it. Here we have close to nothing, we are reduced to begging' (p. 164). A fisherman from the Kenyah tribe said: 'My village is upriver from the SCORE dams but I cannot fish anymore, the waters are so murky, water levels are too low. I used to catch by net, but now we cannot see, I used to catch by rod, but now the water is too shallow. Crops are all failing and I've spent the past 3 years in meetings trying to fight the government, with no time for farming or planting.'

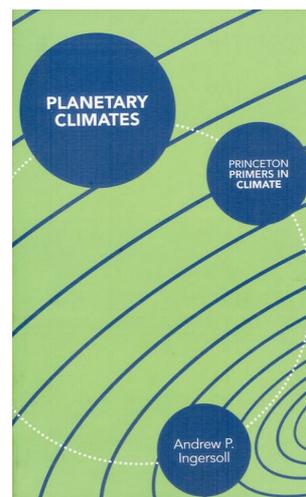
Farmers seemed to have done better than hunters and fishermen. Here is one account: 'In some ways we are living better, we were subsistence farmers before, we now have enough money to send some of our children to school. Our longhouse is made of concrete rather than wood. Most homes have at least one car, one motorcycle, a television, 24 hour electricity for every room, electric fans and kitchen appliances' (p. 148).

As in Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, the only option being offered to an insensitive modernism is savage primitivism. When asked to choose bet-

ween the lesser of two evils, we should reject both and look for and find a third way.

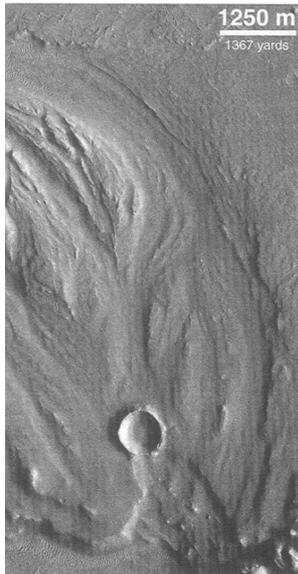
DILIP R. AHUJA

*National Institute of Advanced Studies,
Indian Institute of Science Campus,
Bangalore 560 012, India
e-mail: drahuja@gmail.com*



Planetary Climates. Andrew P. Ingersoll. Princeton University Press, 41, William Street, Princeton, New Jersey 08540, USA. 2013. 278 pp. Price: US\$ 19.95.

The presence, thickness and composition of atmosphere on a solar system object mostly depends on its mass and distance from the Sun. All the objects with atmospheres will have surface dynamics, principally driven by the interactions and energy inputs/exchange from the Sun and the planet's own internal heat, resulting in the climates and their variations/cycles. On Earth, climate changes are greatly influenced by human intervention in recent times. Decades of research on the palaeoclimatic records on Earth are helping us to decouple the natural and anthropogenic effects and providing a handle for future forecast and suggestions for necessary corrective measures. Other solar system objects with atmosphere and climate, in particular, the terrestrial planets, may serve as natural laboratories to understand the past and future Earth climates. In this connection learning about planetary climates is of importance to human kind. Prior to 1960s, our knowledge about planetary atmospheres and climates was at best



Mars flood channels. Geologic evidence suggests that the floods occurred during the first billion year of Mars's history.

speculative. Telescopic observations and later planetary missions have provided us a wealth of information, often leading to concepts contrary to the speculative era.

The book under review is a welcome addition in this respect. It has 11 chapters. After a general introduction on planetary climates, specific chapters on Venus (2), Mars (2), satellites (1), Jupiter (2), Saturn (1), Uranus, Neptune and exoplanets (1) and conclusions (1) are presented. Particularly, the chapters on Venus and Mars, providing a comparison/contrast with Earth are informative, even for an expert. In addition, a glossary to explain scientific terms and a list of important references are included at the end. The book is well written for both a scientist and a lay man, with minimum jargon and simple explanations. The author's teaching experience can be clearly seen in the writing style.

All mathematical expressions and scientific concepts are explained in 'Boxes', immediately after their first appearance in the text.

I found it strange that planet Earth does not figure as a separate chapter in this book. Though at appropriate places in several chapters, a comparison/contrast is made to Earth, a separate chapter dealing with present and palaeoclimate on Earth and the anthropogenic effects would have been more valuable for a general reader. Notwithstanding this aspect, the book would be a good resource in the libraries, as well as for science enthusiasts.

S. V. S. MURTY

PLANEX,
Physical Research Laboratory,
Ahmedabad 380 009, India
e-mail: murty@prl.res.in

PERSONAL NEWS

T. C. Narendran (1944–2013)

The life of T. C. Narendran was so intense and productive that it deserves the applause and admiration of all who knew him – colleagues, friends, students of chalcids and his relatives. I feel proud to be a part of his legacy in revealing his dedication to his work, and his readiness and interest in tutoring those keen to learn about chalcids.

Thekke Curupathe Narendran was born on 24 February 1944 in Trichur, Kerala. As the son of an agricultural scientist, Ramanuja Menon, he completed his high-school education in Trichur. In 1965, he earned his Bachelor's in Zoology from the Kerala University and completed his Master's in 1967 from St John's College, Agra University, Uttar Pradesh. After a brief spell as lecturer in the Department of Zoology at St Aloysius College, Trichur, Narendran joined the Calicut University as a research officer (1969–72) and then was employed by the Insect Identification and Foreign Parasite Introduction Section of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to study the biology and systematics of Oriental *Brachymeria*. He later continued

his research on parasitic wasps and obtained his doctorate from Calicut University in 1975 based on his studies on biology, morphology and host-parasite relationships of *Brachymeria lasus* (Walker), under the direction of K. J. Joseph. In 1975, Narendran became a lecturer at the University of Calicut,



where he continued his systematic research on parasitic wasps and taught insect diversity, insect morphology, systematic entomology and principles of taxonomy.

During his M Sc days at Agra, Narendran initiated research on reproductive biochemistry. However, his passion for insect classification and evolution grew under the influence of the renowned Indian entomologist M. S. Mani, who was then at Agra University. Following his doctoral research on the biology of *B. lasus*, Narendran continued his correspondence with experts in parasitic wasps, especially Z. Bouček (CAB International, London), who is considered the father of modern chalcidology. Narendran's persistent queries on oriental chalcids flooded Bouček's letter board until he joined him as a postdoctoral fellow in 1980 at the British Natural History Museum, London. During his stay in London, Narendran procured references and information about the oriental chalcids and collaborated in two publications on the chalcid genera *Dirhimus* (Chalcididae) and *Leucospis* (Leucospidae) from India.