

Though care was taken to eliminate any contribution from outside contamination, still there are chances of its contribution around the periphery of the detectors. Hence the outer regions were not used for measurements. The random observations were recorded making sure that uniform and non-uniform regions of uranium concentration were separately counted. In some of the samples like CdS, Pb-As-S and Pb-Sb-S, no clusters were observed in any of the graticules, although measurements were made upto 1300 graticules. In other cases, however, there were random regions of non-uniform distribution and their concentrations are indicated in Table I.

The results indicate non-uniform distribution of uranium in some of the semiconductors. Although the information on bulk average uranium in the samples may be useful, yet, spatial distribution measurements may be more important in structural characterization. Apart from low level (even fraction of a ppm) detection efficiency regarding

trace determinations with better reliability, the technique also has the potential of micromapping the trace elements which is not provided by other usual techniques.

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#### ALL-INDIA SYMPOSIUM ON FLORISTIC STUDIES IN INDIA

(Organised by the Botanical Survey of India in Howrah from 16th November to 18th November 1977)

An All-India Symposium on "Floristic Studies in India—Present Status and Future Strategies" organized by the Botanical Survey of India was held at Howrah from 16th to 18th November 1977. Over 100 scientists participated in the Symposium. There was a very good representation of taxonomists from about 35 institutions and from different special groups of plants.

The papers presented in the Symposium were divided into 4 sections, viz., (i) Floristic studies, (ii) Role of educational and other institutions in floristic surveys, (iii) The herbaria and gardens of India, (iv) Status of studies in Cryptogams in India.

The Symposium was inaugurated by Prof. A. K. Sharma, FNA, Ghosh Professor and Head of the Department of Botany, Calcutta University, Calcutta. It was to be presided over by Dr. A. Ramachandran, Secretary to Government of India, Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi. Due to his inability to attend, his Presidential Address was read by Dr. (Mrs.) Manju Sharma. Professor M. B. Raizada,

FNA, acted as a working President for the Inaugural Function.

Dr. S. K. Jain, Joint Director-in-charge, Botanical Survey of India, in his welcome speech narrated the brief history of floristic studies and the Botanical Survey of India, the present activities of the Survey and salient future programmes. The present status of knowledge in survey of different groups of plants was discussed and the lacunae in the knowledge brought out. Future strategies in exploration work were highlighted. A committee of 10 scientists representing different interests/disciplines discussed the proceedings and prepared some recommendations.

A unique feature of the Symposium was an "Opinion Poll" for the review of the Symposium. The delegates felt that the Symposium served a very useful purpose of exchanging thoughts between taxonomists and highlighting the importance of floristic survey for locating endangered habitats and plant species in India. The Symposium strongly recommended strengthening of plant taxonomic studies in the Survey and in Universities.