

dams as 'furious overtones by novelists and pseudo-environmentalists'. Such statements blemish the scientific tenor of the book, intended to fulfil, 'the requirement of environmental education at graduate and postgraduate level'.

Rekha and Madhyastha trace the history of 'eco-feminism' in the Indian context in the 'Futurology' section. The section also has writings on the use of children's projects to create environ-

mental awareness and on transgenic plant technology. The book ends with a philosophical discourse on the 'Limits of science' by B. M. Hegde.

Despite the fact that the book lacks a coherent central theme, it gives us glimpses of contemporary research in our country on various environmental and related fields. The book will certainly help students of life sciences and ecologists to widen their vision on holistic

environmental management. It also will be a good addition to the libraries.

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## Amar Nath Bhaduri

Amar Nath Bhaduri passed away at the age of 67 on 5 June 2003 at a South Kolkata nursing home after a brief illness. A dedicated professor of biochemistry for 20 years at the Department of Pharmacy, Jadavpur University (1966–1985), Bhaduri joined the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (IICB), Kolkata in 1985 as a Director-grade scientist and later became the Director of the institute. Born in a respectable family at Shyambazar, Bhaduri had his early education from Scottish Church Collegiate School, Presidency College and Department of Applied Chemistry, University College of Science and Technology, Calcutta University. He went to USA for higher education, where he obtained his Doctor of Science from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and carried out his postdoctoral studies at Harvard Medical School.

Bhaduri began his research career in the early sixties in Paul Srere's laboratory at the University of Michigan, where he made important contributions to the understanding of citrate metabolism in relation to fatty-acid biosynthesis. His work as a postdoctoral fellow at the Harvard Medical School resulted in an interesting finding on the effect of uridine nucleotides on an epimerase.

During his early years as an independent investigator at Jadavpur University, Bhaduri discovered and purified a new enzyme galactose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase. Soon thereafter followed his important contribution on the regulation of the enzyme UDP-glucose-4-epimerase from *S. fragilis*. He not only discovered that the enzyme was allosterically activated by metabolically-related sugar phosphates, but also showed that the enzyme had allosteric kinetics in one direction

and not in the other – an unusual property that may be of great importance in the regulation of galactose metabolism. He also showed that the enzyme could be desensitized by heat to give hyperbolic kinetics. He further demonstrated that the enzyme could be inactivated by the dissociation of NAD and could be reactivated by the addition of NAD, a fact which he used for characterization of the



pyridine nucleotide-binding site of this enzyme.

Bhaduri's later work threw some light on the organization of the active site of this enzyme. He demonstrated the presence of conformationally vicinal sulfhydryl groups at its active site and also provided evidence for the possible involvement of sulfhydryl, arginine and histidine residues in its function. Bhaduri is one of the very few enzymologists in this country who studied an enzyme in-depth and so successfully.

Bhaduri was not only a scientist and an academician; he served the Calcutta Municipal Corporation as a Councillor from North Kolkata in his earlier years after returning from the US. A person of great versatility with interests in music, literature and drama, Bhaduri was popularly and fondly known as Amar-da to everybody. As a talented man with great intellectuality and dedication to science, he made outstanding contribution in kala-azar research in the country. He was leader of the UNDP-sponsored coordinated programme of kala-azar research at IICB. A recipient of the Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar Award for excellence in science, Bhaduri was also honoured with fellowships from the Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore and the West Bengal Academy of Science and Technology. He was a member of the Steering Committee of World Health Organization for parasitic diseases. As an honorary faculty member of Calcutta University and Jadavpur University, and as an Emeritus Scientists at IICB, he rendered valuable service by teaching postgraduate students and contributing his knowledge to scientific workers till the last day of his life. His absence has created a void in the scientific community in the country.

He is survived by his wife, a daughter, and a son.

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