There are two issues of regional groundwater modelling which are of great concern with regard to modelling requirements in India. These concern the uncertainty in the draft estimate and methods for recharge assessment during monsoon season. While there is some sketch coverage of these two important areas, the vast experience of the author with modelling might have been used to cover these areas in greater detail.

In view of the limitations highlighted in this review, the book may be of some benefit to professionals and academics with some experience in modelling regional groundwater systems, rather than to a student who wants to learn groundwater modelling. The lack of rigour in the book is not conducive to systematic learning of the subject.

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PERSONAL NEWS

V. M. Thakor

Veteran scientist and octogenarian, Vidyadhar Manjulal Thakor passed away on 23 June 2004 at Ahmedabad at the age of 83. Thakor obtained his doctorate degree from Royal Institute of Science, Mumbai under the guidance of late R. C. Shah, the then Advisor to Government of India and Deputy Director of National Chemical Laboratory, Pune. He started his career at the Gujarat College, Ahmedabad; he participated in the freedom movement in 1942 and was wedded to khadi all his life. Thakor published many of his papers on coumarins and chomones in international journals like *Journal of Organic Chemistry* (*JOC*) and *Journal of the Chemical Society* (*JCS*). He had more than 150 scientific research papers to his credit. He guided 22 Ph D students.

Thakor was the Founder-Head of the Department of Chemistry at Saurashtra University, Rajkot that was established in 1979. He also acted as the Vice-Chancellor of Saurashtra University for six months. He authored a thesaurus in Gujarati which was well received in Gujarat. He spent most of his time in Saurashtra, especially as Principal of Bahauddin Science College, Junagadh, then at M.P. Shah Arts and Science College at Surendranagar and later at H and H. B. Kotak Science Institute, Rajkot.

During his career as a researcher, Thakor worked on Fries, Friedel–Crafts rearrangement, Dakin oxidation, Pechmann condensation, Kostanecki–Robinson acylation, Ulmann condensation, Gattermann formylation and Claisen rearrangements. He had several publications on polyhydroxy coumarins, chormones, 3-chromenes, 3-chromenols, pyrilium salts, flavones and flavonols, chalcones and also on natural products from various plant isolates from petrocarpus Marsupium, *Cariudrum sativum*, *Pristimera indica*. His three papers in *JOC* related to formylation of benzopyrans and synthesis of 5, 6, 7, 8-tetrahydroxy coumarins were well received. (*JOC*, 22, 1626, 1630, 2223; 1957; *JCS* 1955; 5350.) Citation of these papers is included in Rodd's *Chemistry of Carbon Compounds* and in F. M. Dean's *Oxygen Ring Heterocyclic Compounds*.

Thakor's interest also led him to utilize many organic compounds as analytical reagents and he developed methods for detection and determination of copper, nickel, cobalt, titanium, platinum and palladium.

As a teacher, he wrote an excellent handbook on chromatographic techniques and ran many workshops on semi micro techniques for college and university teachers in the 70s and 80s.

Thakor was working on Woodward's rule in spectroscopy on natural products, but could not complete his findings. He initiated work on 4-hydroxy coumarins, 3-hydroxy coumarins, benzofuran formation by Perkin–Ebert–Fittig rearrangement and applied this mechanism to 4-halocoumarins for optimization and succeeded. He had also worked upon novel synthesis of substituted bergapten, psoralene and their derivatives, which remain unpublished.

To his credit a recent Indian patent had been filed (2001). His research students, now at various levels of academic positions have continued to work on many ideas regarding heterocyclic synthesis of naturally occurring products cultivated by Thakor and are pursuing his goal.

During retirement, he donated his entire savings to charitable trusts devoted to health, education, physically disabled persons, and woman and child welfare. He donated his body to the Medical College at V. S. Hospital, Ahmedabad. He is survived by his sister and brother. The R.C. Shah Memorial Lecture-Award for chemistry, biology and related research branches given by the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) to encourage young researchers is based on an endowment of Rs 100,000 donated by Thakor to ISCA. Dr V.M. Thakor Education and Research Trust promoted many activities under his chairmanship including the above ISCA award. Young researchers should take inspiration from a classical organic chemist and professor of merit like Thakor.

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