

origins for biological material even in different galaxies was unnatural. It must ultimately have a common cosmic origin whose elucidation will prove to be one of the main tasks, if not the cornerstone, of any future cosmology.

The lecture was followed by a lively discussion including topics such as the Viking experiment on Mars and the evidence from protein sequences for

evolution. What this summary cannot fully convey is the unique nature of the scientific enterprise which Prof. Hoyle described in which the stakes are nothing less than the entire universe.

RAJARAM NITYANANDA

Raman Research Institute,
Bangalore 560 080.

ANNOUNCEMENT

IX INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TROPICAL ECOLOGY

Exploitation of natural resources, and human impact on regenerative and productive potential of ecosystems have been specially exacerbated in the tropical regions by population explosion and the need for speedy economic development. The resultant problems of land degradation, environmental pollution and growing susceptibility of natural ecosystems to man-induced disruptive forces, call for formulation and implementation of strategies for sustainable development and harmonization of society-environment relations. Thus, the International Society for Tropical Ecology is organizing the IX Symposium with its focal theme on *Ecological Management of Tropical Ecosystems*.

The symposium will include a number of conferences and sessions of invited lectures, contributed papers and posters covering a wide variety of subjects of global importance such as land degradation and restoration, pollution, human ecology, plant geography and man's impact on forest, savanna, aquatic and agricultural ecosystems, environmental management etc.

A major post-symposium tour to the Nilgiri biosphere reserve and Silent Valley covering a wide

range of ecosystems from dry to wet tropics is being planned.

The symposium will include a special conference on 'Restoration of degraded ecosystems: A global issue'.

The following conferences will be held during the symposium. Names of organisers are given in parenthesis.

Restoration of degraded ecosystems (Prof. M. K. Wali); Human ecology (Prof. Madhav Gadgil); Mangrove ecosystem (Dr A. G. Untawale); Tropical oceans (Dr A. H. Parulekar); Plant geography (Dr V. M. Meher-Homji); Tropical agro-ecosystem (Prof. P. S. Ramakrishnan); Tropical freshwater resource (Dr B. Gopal); Wildlife conservation (Dr H. S. Panwar); Dynamics and regulation of plant population (Prof. R. S. Tripathi); Air quality and plants (Prof. C. K. Varshney).

The abstracts should be submitted by 1 September 1987. Correspondence and enquiries may be addressed to Professors R. S. Ambasht/J. S. Singh/K. P. Singh, Department of Botany, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi 221 005.