

## HISTORICAL NOTES

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## PERSONAL NEWS

### K. G. Adiyodi

K. G. Adiyodi, a pioneer in the field of invertebrate endocrinology passed away after a massive heart attack on 28 May 2001. Born in 1938 at Karivellor, a village in North Malabar area of Kerala, Adiyodi had his primary education in a local school. He graduated with B Sc Honours in 1958 and took his MA degree from Madras Christian College, Chennai in 1968. He obtained his Ph D in insect reproductive physiology from Kerala University, Thiruvananthapuram in 1970 under the able guidance of K. K. Nair, a doyen in the field of invertebrate endocrinology. Subsequently, he held appointments in Calicut University as Reader (1970–1977) and Professor in invertebrate reproductive physiology (1988–1991). After his marriage to Rita Adiyodi (nee Rita Gomez), Adiyodi began working on crustacean molting and reproductive physiology. Using a field crab *Paratelphusa hydrodromous* as the reproductive model, Rita and Adiyodi made significant contributions on endocrine regulation of molting and reproduction. Their review article on endocrine regulation of molting and reproduction in Crustacea, published in *Biological Reviews* in 1971 was a benchmark in the evaluation of the interrelationship between the two phenomena in these arthropods. The hypothesis they proposed on the interplay between the eyestalk neuropeptides to regulate reproduction and molting in decapod crustaceans is holding good even today. He championed the cause of invertebrate physiologists who were indeed looked down upon by the vertebrate or mammalian reproductive physi-

ologists in India and abroad. To give a pride of place to invertebrate reproductive physiologists, he conceived the idea of organizing a forum for invertebrate reproductive biologists. This has resulted in convening the first ever international conference on the subject in 1975 at



Calicut; eventually, the International Society for Invertebrate Reproduction (ISIR) was born. The Calicut conference was identified as the first meeting of the ISIR, paving the way for the sequel of triennial international meetings, the latest in the series being the 9th International Congress on Invertebrate Reproduction and Development at Rhodes University, South Africa in July 2001. To be frank, the Calicut meet gave impetus for many researchers like me to choose invertebrate reproductive physiology as a career. Invertebrate reproductive physiology eventually became a discipline of considerable focus in many universities

and research institutions in the south. Adiyodi's flair for editing manuscripts was par excellence. Capitalizing on the awareness created on research in invertebrate reproduction, he floated a new journal for ISIR, the *International Journal of Invertebrate Reproduction*, published by Elsevier Biomedical Press, Amsterdam. Adiyodi became the Founder Editor-in-Chief of this journal, which is now being continued with a new name, *Invertebrate Reproduction and Development*, published by Balaban, Philadelphia/Rehovot. Adiyodi, along with his wife also ventured into the editing of an open-ended multi-volume treatise entitled *Reproductive Biology of Invertebrates*, published by John Wiley & Sons, England.

In 1994, Adiyodi became Vice-Chancellor of the Cochin University of Science and Technology. In 1996, he was invited to be the member of the Union Public Service Commission (Government of India), a position he held until his demise. In his native state, Kerala, he is also remembered as one of the founders of Kerala Shastra Sahitya Parishad, now the largest popular science organization and movement in India, that has won several prestigious awards, including the Right Livelihood award. Adiyodi is survived by his wife, son, Nirmal and daughter, Laxmi.

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