

PREFACE

This volume of Kavaka is dedicated to the fond memory of Late Professor John Paul Muthumary @ Kalaivani. During her long association with MSI, Late Professor Muthumary has played a pivotal role in the growth of Mycological Society of India. As a part of the preface to this volume of Kavaka, a brief account of her life sketch and recognitions which she received during her professional career has been highlighted so as to acquaint the mycological fraternity about the contributions of this great Indian Mycologist whose career flourished under the stewardship of none other than legendary Late Prof. C. V. Subramanian. Dr. Muthumary was born on 8th February 1951. Coming from a humble background she had a very bright academic record right from her school days. She received her Ph.D. and D.Sc. in Botany from University of Madras, and incidentally she was the first woman Scientist having being awarded D.Sc. from University of Madras.



**Prof. John Paul Muthumary
(1951 -2018)**

She joined Centre for Advanced Studies in Botany, University of Madras as a Lecturer in the year 1982 and became Professor and then Emeritus Professor. She has one patent to her credit for Taxol production from fungi (Patent No. 1391/CHE/05 dated 30.9.2005). After her superannuation in 2011 she was awarded UGC-BSR Faculty Fellowship by the University Grants Commission. Prof. Muthumary has over 40 years experience of working in the field of mycology, especially Coelomycetes.

Dr. Johnpaul Muthumary has guided 30 Research Scholars for Ph.D. and more than 100 M.Sc. and M.Phil. Students for their dissertation and Project work. She has completed 9 major Research Projects funded by various funding Agencies and published more than 100 research articles in the International and National Journals of repute. She has authored two books in Mycology entitled “Indian Septoria” and “Indian Coelomycetes” which speaks volumes about the contributions of Late Professor Muthumary in the area of Mitosporic Fungi. She has visited several countries including U.K., U.S.A. and other European countries for training and to participate in conferences to disseminate her research findings. She was awarded British Council Fellowship for Ph.D. research scholars to work for a period of six month at Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew, London during 1979-1980. She was a commonwealth Academic Staff Fellow at Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, London, U.K. During 1980-1981 she collaborated with Dr. Simon Archer and Dr. B.C. Sutton, the then Director, Commonwealth Mycological Institution, Kew, London. She learnt various Electron microscopic techniques at the Institute and had the opportunity to visit various Electron microscopic Laboratories especially in London and Edinburgh. She attended 10th International Congress of Cytochemistry and Histochemistry, organized by the Royal Microscopical Society in 2000 at York, U.K. and 7th International Mycological Congress (IMC7) organized by the Biological Institute and Botanical Museum, University of Oslo, Norway in 2002. She was awarded Tamil Nadu Life Time Achievement Award in the field of Life Science.

She served as Secretary of Mycological Society of India from 2003 - 2010 and was also a Life member of the society. Her sudden demise in 2018 is an irreparable loss to Indian Mycological fraternity. This specific Commemorative volume of Kavaka is dedicated to honour the contributions of Late Prof. John Paul Muthumary to the field of Mycology in general and MSI in particular.

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