

Obituary



DR. M.A.F. FARIDI
(1927–1985)

Professor Mohammad Aslam Farooq Faridi was born on April 8, 1927 in Retol, a small village in District Merrut in undivided India. He received his early schooling at Faiz-e-Aam High School, Meerut. He moved to the Muslim University Aligarh from where he graduated in 1943 and obtained his Master's degree in Botany in 1945. Dr. Faridi was an active element of Pakistan movement and the creation of Pakistan therefore urged him to migrate to Pakistan in 1948. Dr. Faridi joined the Punjab University and worked on Charales of West Pakistan under Prof. Ch. Sultan Ahmad and obtained another Master's degree in Botany in 1953. Dr. Faridi taught Botany for some time at the MAO College Lahore and then in 1954 moved to the glorious, historic and the oldest seat of learning in the NWFP – The Islamia College Peshawar. Dr. Faridi was awarded a merit scholarship in 1958 for overseas studies at the University of Kansas in USA from where he completed his doctoral thesis in 1961 on fresh water species of *Rhizocolonium* and *Cladophora* under Professor G.W. Prescott. On his return Dr. Faridi joined the Department of Botany University of Peshawar in 1963. Dr. Faridi was Chairman of the Department from 1976–1982. He was a member of various academic committees. Dr. Faridi retired as Professor of Botany, University of Peshawar in June 1985 and before his retirement Prof. Faridi donated all his books, periodicals and scientific literature to the department, which is considered as one of the largest collections on fresh water algae.

Dr. Faridi continued to devote his time to teaching and research. In spite of his illnesses, heart seizures in 1973 and 1978, throat cancer followed by removal of his vocal cords, Dr. Faridi was a very good conversationalist and the loss of speech was a great shock to him. He presented experiences of his speech therapy in a book "Goyaie ki Bazyaft" for those who had lost their speaking ability during operations. A defibrillator was fitted into his body to control his heart functions. Dr. Faridi continued to struggle and on September 14, 1985 at 9.15 p.m. Dr. Faridi died in the intensive care

unit of Khyber Hospital. He was buried in the University graveyard at Peshawar. May God Almighty shower His blessings upon the departed soul. Ameen.

Dr. Faridi was a keen observer of nature. He was author or coauthor of over 70 scientific papers mostly dealing with fresh water algae. He was considered as an authority on the fresh water algae of Pakistan. He also wrote popular articles, stories and fiction. Dr. Faridi translated a pushto book "Rochi Mataloona" into Urdu.

Dr. Faridi was a member of Pakistan Botanical Society and Pakistan Biological Society. He also served on the editorial boards of Pakistan Journal of Botany, Biologia and Biological Journal of Science & Technology. Several new algal specimens described by Dr. Faridi include, *Nitella pakistanica*, *Pelogloea nizamuddinii*, *Oscillatoria zahidii*, *Oedogonium ahmedii*, *Zygnema pakistanica*, *Closterium croasdalii*, *Ulothrix shameelii*, *Oedogonium peshawarensense* whereas *Caulerpa faridii*, *Ulothrix zonata* var. *faridii*, *Selanas-trum faridii* have been named in his honour.

Dr. Faridi was greatly admired by the staff, his students and his friends alike. He was an indefatigable worker and he always motivated his students and fellow workers to excel in studies and research. His death is a great loss not only to his family but to his students and friends. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son.

Farrukh Hussain

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS OF DR. M.A.F. FARIDI

1. A contribution to the Charales of West Pakistan. *Biologia*, 1: 70-81 (1955).
2. A new species of *Nitella* from Pakistan. *Biologia*, 2: 254-255 (1956).
3. *Chaetomorpha henningsii* in the U.S.A. *Kansas Acad. Sci.* 65: 420-421 (1962).
4. Some simple techniques for the production of zoospores in fresh water algae. *Turtox News*, 42: 58-59 (1964).
5. Chlorococcales in Peshawar Valley. *Biologia*, 10: 537-588 (1964).
6. Identification of fresh water algae with naked eye. *Biologia*, 16: 67-70 (1970).
7. The genera of fresh water algae of Pakistan & Kashmir. *Biologia*, 17: 123-142 (1972).
8. Occurrence of meiosis in *Batrachospermum moniliforme*. *Biologia*, 17: 123-124 (1971).
9. Chaetophora in Pakistan. *Biologia*, 18: 47-50 (1972).
10. A new species of *Pelagioes* (Cyanophyceae) from Pakistan. *Biologia*, 20: 63-64 (1974).
11. A new species of *Oscillatoria* (Cyanophyceae) from Pakistan. *Biologia*, 20: 65-66 (1974).
12. *Tamnogametum thaxterii* in Pakistan. *Biologia*, 18: 47-50 (1972).
13. The evolution of chloroplast in algae, with particular reference to *Chlamydomonas*. *Biologia*, 21: 102-105 (1975).
14. *Batrachospermum* in Pakistan. *Biologia*, 21: 108-109 (1975).
15. *Coleochaete* in Pakistan. *Pakistan Systematics* 1: 1-6 (1977).
16. *Closterium* in Peshawar Valley. *Pak. J. Bot.* 8: 221-239 (1976).
17. Water-blooms. Presidential address. Proc. of National Panel of Algae and their Utilization. Engineering University. Lahore. 60-70 (1976).
18. The effect of constant light on *Vaucheria sessilis* (Vauch) DC. *Pak. J. Bot.*, 9: 77-78 (1977).
19. The life-history of *Cladophora crispata* (Roth) Kg. *Pak. J. Bot.*, 9: 159-162 (1977).
20. *Vaucheria* in North West Pakistan, *Sultania*, 3: 5-9 (1977).
21. *Oedo gonium* in Pakistan. *Pak. J. Bot.*, 9: 80-93 (1977).
22. *Zygnema* and *Zygnemopsis* in Peshawar. *Pak. J. Bot.*, 9: 67-75 (1977).
23. The genus *Spirogyra* in Peshawar Valley. *Biologia*, 74: 421-436 (1978).
24. *Sphaeroplea* in Pakistan. *Pak. J. Sci. Ind. Res.*, 23: 205-206 (1980)
25. Biology and Human Destiny. *Pakistan*, 2: 1-8 (1981)
26. Hashish. *Pakistan*, 4: 9-10 (1981).
27. Algae associated with alluvial gold of Indus at Attock. *Geol. Bull. Univ. Peshawar*, 14: 151-157 (1981).
28. Some soil-binding algae from Peshawar, Pakistan. *Pak. J. Bot.*, 14: 107-109 (1982).
29. *Ulothrix* in Pakistan. *Pak. J. Bot.* 14: 181-188 (1982).
30. A new mode of cell-growth in *Sprigya*. *Biologia*, 28: 269-271 (1982).
31. Effect of Cyanophyta on building. *pour Pure and Appl. Sci.*, 2: 1-4 (1983).
32. Some heterocystous nitrogen-fixing blue-green algae. Proc. Reg. Conf. Bot. Deptt., Univ. Pesh. April 24-26, (1982).
33. *Chlorosarcinopsis* in some soils of Peshawar, Mardan and D.I. Khan districts. Proc. Reg. Conf. (1982).
34. *Ankistradesmus ishtiaquii*, a new algae from Peshawar, Pakistan. , *Biologia*, 29: In Press (1983).
35. A monograph of *Rhizoclonium*. *Biologia*, 29: 213 (1983).
36. *Geminella*, *Binuclearia* and *Radiofilum* in North Pakistan. *Jour. Sci & Tech.* (In Press).
37. Some soil-binding algae from Lawrencepur. *Jour. Pure & Appl. Sci.* (1983).
39. A manual of fresh-water algae. *Jour. Sci., & Tech* (In Press).
39. Seasonal variation of algae in a polluted pond in Yar Hussain, Mardan District. *Pak. J. Bot.*, (1985).
40. The genus *Cholorococcum* isolated from the soils of Peshawar, Mardan & D.I. Khan. *Pak. J. Bot.*,
41. Fresh-Water algae of Hanna Urak valley, Quetta. *Pak. J. Bot.* (In Press).