

PROFILE OF SCIENTIST/RESEARCH WORKER

Name: DR ASHISH KUMAR ASTHANA

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Qualification: Ph.D. in Botany

Area(s) of Specialization: Bryology

Occupation/Designation: Senior Scientist & Group Leader, Bryology Laboratory,
CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute,
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Major Activities: Engaged in R&D activities focused on Diversity, revisionary, monographic and conservation of Bryophytes of Indian region since three decades. Handled several research projects and trained number of students at PG and Doctorate level as capacity building in the field of taxonomy of Bryophytes.

Background

Dr. A.K. Asthana has a research experience of about 30 years in the field of Bryology. He has worked for his Ph. D. degree under the able guidance of Late Prof. Ram Udar, F.N.A., at Lucknow University, Lucknow. He has worked out the taxonomy of Indian hornworts (Anthocerotae) a Class of Bryophytes. His work on this group of plants has resolved the long prevailing ambiguity in understanding the taxonomy of hornworts in India. At present he is Senior Scientist and Group Leader of Bryology Laboratory, CSIR-N.B.R.I., Lucknow. He is engaged in researches on morphotaxonomy, diversity and conservation of bryophytes. **He has published about 115 research papers in National and International Journals on various aspects of bryophytes including two monographs and edited two books.** He has received training on Tissue Culture techniques of Bryophytes from Delhi University, Delhi, besides attending a UNESCO training Course on Herbarium Techniques and Curation. He has carried out extensive plant collection trips to all the major bryogeographical regions of the country including high altitude localities and made collection of bryophytes. He is member of several National and International Academic Societies. Recently he has been nominated as Life member of National Academy of Sciences, India. He has handled In house and externally funded Projects as Investigator and Co-Investigator. He has also attended several National and International Symposia/Seminars and Conferences, and delivered Lectures there.

Awards/Recognitions: 1. Ruchiram Sahni research Award in Botany by Lucknow University, Lucknow.
2. Prof. Ram Udar Medal Award by Association for Plant Taxonomy