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Obituary: Professor P. N. Ganapati

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Obituary

PROFESSOR P. N. GANAPATI

Professor P. N. Ganapati, Honorary Professor in Zoology, Andhra University, Waltair, passed away this morning in Bombay after a brief illness. He was returning home after his six month tour to U.S.

Born on the 15 July, 1910 in a village near Palghat, Professor Ganapati had his early education in Ernakulam. Later, he moved to Madras where he graduated from the Presidency college in 1932. He took his M.A. Degree in 1934 and later the D.Sc. in 1942 from the Madras University. After a brief assignment in the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mandapam, Professor Ganapati went abroad to receive advanced training in research in Parasitology at the Molteno Institute of Parasitology, Cambridge, where he worked for over two years. After his return from England, in 1949, Professor Ganapati joined the Zoological Laboratories at the Andhra University, Waltair, at the instance of the then Vice-Chancellor, Sir C. R. Reddy. Later, he became the Head of the Department of Zoology there, succeeding his predecessor, Professor R. Gopala Iyer who was also his teacher. Professor Ganapati retired as the Head of the Zoology Department in 1970 and since then he continued there as an Emeritus Professor. Recently, the University had honoured him by appointing him as Honorary Professor. Apart from showing keen interest in his chosen field of specialisation, namely Parasitology, Professor Ganapati promoted active research in Marine Biology. He was virtually the first scientist to organise systematic oceanographic research in India along with other renowned oceanographers, Dr. E. C. La Fond and late Professor C. Mahadevan, in early fifties. Professor Ganapati was in charge of several scientific projects in Marine Biology sponsored by the I.C.A.R., F.R.I., I.N.S.A. and other scientific organisations. His participation in the International Indian Ocean Expedition (1958-63) resulted in the collection and publication of very valuable data pertaining to the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian seas.

He published over 200 research publications in this field and some 25 candidates have obtained their doctorate degrees under his supervision. A Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, Professor Ganapati served in various capacities on several academic bodies including UNESCO, INCOR, IOBC, ICAR, ZSI, FRI and numerous Universities. Professor Ganapati has a number of admirers, mostly his students, who are occupying high positions in India and abroad.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters.

Waltair,
5 January, 1984.

M. Gopalakrishna Reddy
Registrar, Andhra University.