

Obituary



Doctor Khan Yousufzai

April 28, 2024

Plant Ecologist and Biostatistician

Doctor Khan Yousufzai, one of the outstanding ecologist passed away peacefully after a prolonged illness on 28th April, 2024 in Karachi, Pakistan. Dr. Khan started his life journey from India. He completed his early education at High School and Intermediate examination (U.P. Board) with a high percentage and admitted to the prestigious University (India) for higher studies and was awarded B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees. He has completed field dissertation for M. Sc. from India on “**The Liverworts Flora of Mussoorie, India**”. He migrated from India to Pakistan and admitted in Department of Botany, University of Karachi for Postgraduate studies. He has completed his M.Phil dissertation (543 pages) entitled “**Eco-physiological studies of certain desert and semi-desert plants with special reference to biochemical interference (Allelopathy)**” from Department of Botany, University of Karachi and awarded Ph.D. degree from Karachi University on “**Phytosociological survey of Pakistan coast with special reference to pasture and forest development through Biosaline technique**” (422 pages). During his M.Phil and Ph.D. studies and after earning highest degrees he had served in the Department of Botany, University of Karachi and Government National Degree College, Karachi, Pakistan.

- Associate Ecologist in Res. Project—“SALINE AGRICULTURE AT COASTAL SANDY BELT” (1981 to 1986). Dept. Bot., University of Karachi. (Principal Investigator: Professor Dr. Rafiq Ahmad).
- *Co-Principal Investigator in Res. Project*—“SEASONAL VARIATION IN STRUCTURE, COMPOSITION, PLANT BIOMASS AND NET PRIMARY PRODUCTIVITY OF SOME GRASS DOMINATED COMMUNITIES OF KARACHI” (1990 TO 1992), Professor Dr. M. Faheemuddin (Principal Investigator). Sponsorship: National Scientific Research Development Board (NSRDB), Islamabad.
- Co-Principal Investigator in Research Project “UTILIZATION OF SALT AFFECTED AND WATERLOGGED SOILS THROUGH NATURAL VEGETATION IN SINDH” sponsored by IWASRI (International water-logging and salinity Research Institute, Lahore). Project Venue: LIM (Lower Indus water Management and Reclamation Research Project, Hyderabad, Sindh, and Biosaline Research Laboratories, Dept. Bot., University of Karachi (1995 - 96). (Advisor to the Project: Professor Dr. Rafiq Ahmad).
- Voluntary Research and Co-operation extended to a UNDP/UNESCO Regional. Research. Project during 1986 to 1988 - Mangrove Ecosystems of Pakistan (run by Sindh Forest Dept., Karachi).
- Voluntary help in publication of International Journal of Biology and Biotechnology, FUUAST Journal of Biology, International Journal of Biology Research by critical reviewed research articles.

Publications

- A) Published more than 200 research papers in the field of statistical ecology, Floristics, life-form-, leaf-size- and halo-physiotypic spectra of coastal flora of Pakistan, phytosociology of coastal and inland halo catena of Sindh and Balochistan, Species diversity of plant and animal communities, eco-physiology and production ecology of grass communities of Pakistan coast, Germination ecology, cultivation and growth of salt tolerant plants under saline irrigation and physiological parameters of salt tolerance, Biochemical interference among

desert plants, Arbuscular fungi of coastal and cultivated species of Sindh, Seed mass variation of arid land plants, dune stabilization, Seed-oil content and fatty acid composition, Plant-insect relations, Plant size-fecundity relations, Plant size-biomass allometry in halophytes, nematodes of chilli plants, major and trace metals in stem wood bottom-ash, Heavy metals contents in fish organic mass, Leaf area estimation, Foliar ornamentation and surface micromorphology of seedlings of tropical plants, review of doctor tree (*Moringa*) etc.

- B) Published book, “*Growth and Allometric relations of *Thespesia* under Saline Conditions*”. Z. N. Gohar, R. Ahmad and D. Khan. (2016). LAP (Lambert Acad. Publ.) OmniScriptum GMBH & Co. KG. PP. 67.
- C) Published a Review on book entitled “*Islam and the Environmental Crisis*”. Written by Alhaj Akhtaruddin Ahmad, Dr. Majid H.A. Hashim and Dr. Ghazi Al-Hachim. Ta-Ha PUBLICATION, England (1997)..... Review published in *Hamdard Islamicus* XXI (3): 103 - 107. D. Khan and M. Rashid Hai.

Dr. Khan was a simple, humble and honest to the core, most cooperative human being. In his demise, the scientific community, especially the Ecologists, has lost a great scientist, teacher and wonderful human being. We pray to Almighty God to give peace to the departed soul in heavenly abode and solace and strength to the bereaved family and his students to bear the great loss. He is survived by his wife, son, daughter and grand son and grand daughters.

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