

International Symposium on Ciliate Biology 2018 (ISCB 2018) with International Research Coordination Network – Biodiversity of Ciliates (IRCN-BC), an affiliate society of International Society of Protistologists (ISOP)

Organizing team: Dr. Ravi Toteja and Dr. Seema Makhija

Date: April 04-06, 2018

The 2nd International Symposium on Ciliate Biology (ISCB 2018) convened by Dr Komal Kamra, co-convened by Dr Renu Gupta, Dr Seema Makhija and Dr Ravi Toteja, was organized at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi, India, from April 04 - 06, 2018. Three colleges of the University of Delhi: Acharya Narendra Dev, Maitreyi and SGTB Khalsa led by their Principals Dr Savithri Singh, Dr Haritma Chopra and Dr Jaswinder Singh respectively played a pivotal role in providing logistic support for the smooth run of the symposium. The symposium was a result of synergy with International Research Coordination Network for Biodiversity of Ciliates (IRCN-BC), an affiliate society of International Society of Protistologists (ISOP). Financial support came from international agencies such as ISOP and IUBS, and Indian agencies CSIR, DBT, DRDO, DST-SERB, ICMR, IMTECH, INSA, and ZSI. The symposium was inaugurated by Dr Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State, Union Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The aim of holding of the symposium was to provide a platform to scientists in ciliate research to present their findings before the International Protistology community, and to expose undergraduate students to the subject on a bigger canvas. It was attended by over 300 Indian delegates and 9 foreign delegates.

The symposium comprised 22 oral and 57 poster presentations delivered by participants covering various aspects of ciliate research: biodiversity, ecology, evolution, role of ciliates in the food web of soil and water ecosystems, indicators of pollution and in bioremediation fields.

Three presentations mainly focused on ciliates as bioindicators of environmental quality. Dr Komal Kamra threw light on ciliates as bio-indicators of water quality collected from different locations of the River Yamuna, Delhi, India. Dr Alan Warren presented investigations on the relationships between ciliate communities and physico-chemical analysis of water samples collected from Jiazhou Bay, on the Yellow Sea Coast of NE China. Dr Antonietta La Terza gave a lecture on using ciliates as indicators of ecosystem health where the ciliated protists can be used in prognostic and diagnostic assays to detect overall ecosystem impairment.

Three presentations focused on use of ciliated protists for cytotoxicity testing. Prof Rup Lal gave an overview on the effect of pesticides on growth and DNA and protein synthesis by using *Styolonychia notophora* as the model system. This pioneer work on ciliates has helped in using bacterial system for evaluating various environmental stress conditions and helped in entering into the field of genomics and metagenomics. Prof Nageswara Rao Amanchi gave a talk on cytotoxic effects of Cypermethrin on both morphological and physiological changes in two

freshwater ciliates *Paramecium caudatum* and *Blepharisma intermedium* and concluded that these two freshwater ciliates can be used as models for ecotoxicological studies. Similar deliberation by Dr Ravi Toteja delved on the effects of heavy metal toxicity on freshwater ciliates. Increase in the activities of antioxidant enzymes and in the transcriptional expression of stress genes (like hsp70 and metallothionein) were discussed concluding that these enzymes and stress genes can be used to evaluate heavy metal toxicity.

Seven oral presentations focused on ciliate biodiversity. Prof Rosaura Mayén-Estrada gave an overview on family Vorticellidae where detailed information on more than 250 free living and ectosymbiotic species of crustaceans was discussed asking for revision of the status of this family. Dr Anastasia Shatilovich delivered a talk on ciliate diversity in the permafrost sediments and in the profiles of Tundra soils. Prof Alexey Potekhin gave an overview on the hidden diversity of genus *Paramecium* where he reported revision of two subgenera of *Paramecium* and description of two new *Paramecium* morphospecies. Dr Shashi's presentation was on four hypotrichous (3 urotylids and one stichotrichid) ciliated protists isolated from Maharashtra, India. Dr Santosh Kumar gave morphological and molecular description of two different species one each of *Sterkiella* and *Fragmospina* collected from soils of Silent Valley National Park, India. Ms Harpreet Kaur gave the description of a novel freshwater oxytrichid ciliate *Gastrostyla* sp. and compared it with other reported species belonging to genus *Gastrostyla* using molecular phylogeny. Dr Jasbir Singh talked about ciliate biodiversity across Sikkim mainly focusing on hypotrichous ciliates belonging to family Oxytrichidae which were predominantly present in that region.

Ciliate ecology was the focus of three presentations. Dr Sai Elangovan S reported the interaction between the environment and diversity of tintinnids (loricate ciliates) inhabiting mangrove proximal zone waters of south Andaman. A similar talk was delivered by Dr V Ratna Bharathi who reported the correlation between physicochemical parameters and diversity of protozooplanktons at Konam reservoir, Andhra Pradesh, India. Ms Anjusha presented the diversity of aloricate and loricate ciliates in estuaries, coastal waters and open ocean waters at Kochi, India.

Two presentations focused on parasitic ciliates. Prof Probir Kumar Bandyopadhyay gave an overview of controlling the growth of fish parasitic trichodinid ciliates by using fresh garlic-bulb. Use of garlic reduced the trichodinids burden of goldfish significantly. Dr Amlan Kumar Mitra talked about the diversity and distribution of ectoparasitic ciliated protists belonging to family Trichodinidae which are responsible for trichodiniasis disease in fishes.

Prof Cristina Miceli delivered a talk on frameshift mutation in the hsp70 gene of Antarctic ciliate, *Euplotes focardii* due to which this heat-shock chaperone did not get induced under thermal stress but was induced to normal oxidative stress, thus concluding that ciliates can act as better model systems to study environmental adaptation. Prof Elena Sabaneyeva delved on various endosymbionts detected in the ciliate *Paramecium* sp. Dr Seema Makhija gave an

overview of progression of ciliate biology research at University of Delhi where different kinds of research have been and are currently being done.

Poster presentations were grouped into three themes: ciliate experimental, ciliate review and biological sciences. Fifty seven delegates (including undergraduates, post-graduates, research scholars and faculty members) actively participated. Awards were given to the three best posters in each category. Under the theme “ciliate experimental”, Ms Jeeva Susan Abraham, Mr Maksim Melekhin and Ms Sheeba and Ms Anjali Yadav received the best poster awards. Ms Abraham delivered a presentation on inferring phylogenetic positioning of three spirotrich ciliates by using modern molecular techniques. Mr Melekhin explained about species divergence in genus *Paramecium* by studying micronucleus morphology, 18S rDNA and COI gene. Ms Sheeba and Ms Yadav gave a presentation on phylogenetic study of *Blepharisma* sp. using molecular markers like 18S rDNA and ITS gene. Under the theme “ciliate review”, Ms Arveen Kaur, Ms Tanvi Gupta and Mr Harsh Thakur & Mr Priyank Rawat received the best presentation awards. Ms Kaur gave her presentation on symbiotic relationship of *Chlorella* sp. with the ciliate *Paramecium bursaria*. Ms Gupta delved on telomeric G-Quadruplex DNA structure in various ciliate species. Mr Thakur & Mr Rawat made a presentation on various molecular marker genes to study the phylogeny of any species. Under the theme “biological sciences” Dr Jasmine Purushothaman and Ms Akhila Anil, Mr Amit Babu& Mr Sarthak Khurana received the best poster presentation awards. Dr Purushothaman presented a paper on diversity and distribution of testate amoeba in different ecosystems in urbanized areas of Kolkata, West Bengal, India. Ms Anil, Mr Babu and Mr Khurana gave presentation on *Moina* which can be used as a new model system for studying neurodegenerative disorders.

On the last day, a workshop was conducted on “Tools and Techniques used in ciliate studies” for undergraduate and postgraduate students. The workshop was co-organized by Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and ISCB 2018; the workshop facilitators were Dr Renu Gupta, Dr Jasmine Purushothaman, Dr Nageswara Rao Amanchi, Dr Santosh Kumar, Dr Jasbir Singh, Ms S Sripoorna and Ms Jeeva Susan Abraham. Sixty nine students actively participated in the workshop wherein various bioinformatics tools used for analysing the ciliate biodiversity were taught to the students. The aim of the workshop was to provide networking opportunities for students wishing to take up doctoral or postdoctoral research on ciliates.

During the valedictory, Prof Chandrima Shaha, Vice President (Foreign Affairs), Indian Academy of Sciences, was the Chief Guest. Dr Jaswinder Singh, Principal, SGTB Khalsa College, complimented the organizers for the smooth conduct of the symposium, thanked the foreign protistologists and commended the holistic involvement of the students in the venture. Our special thanks to the advisors of ISCB 2018 – Dr Alan Warren, Prof Cristina Miceli, Prof GR Sapra and Prof Rup Lal. Financial assistance by Indian and foreign agencies is greatly

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TRINITY MIRROR
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Saina's precision ensures finals berth in mixed team event

Chennai, April 8: Saina Nehwal has a lot to smile about but her smile here would be more than usual before entering the badminton mixed team event final with a 1-1 win over Singapore at the Commonwealth Games on Sunday. Saina, playing her 22nd match in the last four days, was in complete command on the bank down Singapore's Ju Min Yu 21-15, 21-15 to give the side through what a check-in in men's doubles.

Despite playing with a heavily aching right foot, Saina didn't show any signs of discomfort as she guided the Indian team to victory.

"It was expected that we would play in the final. I never thought they (Singapore) would give us such stiff competition," Saina said on the excitement put up by Singapore in the doubles games.

"I was actually happy that I could play the

match today and make that winning point for the Indian team," she added.

The proceedings were opened by the national doubles pair of Satish Badkar and Adarsh Ponnappa against Hong Kong's Lee and So Yong Crystal Wong.

The Singaporeans Adriano and Huihui spin a wave before going down 22-20, 21-23 in a six-point clash.

"That was hot, we would have been under pressure," Adriano later said acknowledging his state's strong performance.

Singapore had won the team event in the Glasgow Games and that they were not prepared to make Saina's debut a party of honor and Cheng Shany came up against Sany Dora and Danyu Rana Chavesana.

The doubles champions were beaten 22-17, 18-21 (12-2), and were found wanting in most coverage.

"We were a bit nervous. The fact that we need debut with our first match was a bit of a challenge and also, today, we thought," she explained.

It didn't had provided the team with a 2-1 victory with his singles win over Kim Yoo Lak. He had had his share of losing to do and was looked 21-17 with Lak in the opening game before moving ahead for a 2-1 21-14 victory.

"I think it is always important to have the first set under your belt. It gives you a bit of confidence going into the second set. It is the kind of set that I just try to win," he said.

"We had to have a 1-2 lead against them (Singapore), meant that the whole team was not depending on me," he added.

Adarsh said the Indian team was better prepared to handle Singapore's intensity but time.

"Last time we weren't too hot as a team but we didn't really have a mixed doubles partnership so definitely this time around we have an all round team with all five teams taking care of the given the entire team a bit of confidence and also, today, we thought," she explained.

International Symposium on Ciliate Biology 2018

Prof Ravit Chaturvedi

The theme of International Symposium on Ciliate Biology organized at the Indian Habitat Centre in New Delhi recently, came across an organizing protocol. Francis Bacon (an English philosopher, statesman, scientist, jurist, orator and author who served both as Attorney General and as Lord Chancellor of England), "Nothing makes a full man, confidence a ready mate and writing an exact man." The aim of holding of the above mentioned symposium was to put on platform a new generation of Ciliate Biologists.

India has been holding the symposium since 1996 (Bangalore), 2000 (Chennai), 2005 (Chennai), 2010 (Chennai), 2015 (Chennai) and 2018 (Delhi). The 18th symposium was held at the Indian Habitat Centre, New Delhi on 27-30 April 2018. The symposium was organized by Prof. Ravit Chaturvedi, Director, Indian Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The symposium was inaugurated by Prof. M.L. Bhatia, Vice President, Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore. The symposium was inaugurated by Prof. M.L. Bhatia, Vice President, Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore. The symposium was inaugurated by Prof. M.L. Bhatia, Vice President, Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore.



Prof. M.L. Bhatia
(1896-1990)



Prof. H.R. Sedachar



Prof. CMS Das



Prof. DM Saxena



Prof. GR Sapra

Prof. M.L. Bhatia, Vice President of Indian Academy of Sciences inaugurated the symposium with organizing committee.



Delegates & participants during the closing ceremony

The symposium was inaugurated by Prof. M.L. Bhatia, Vice President, Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore. The symposium was inaugurated by Prof. M.L. Bhatia, Vice President, Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore. The symposium was inaugurated by Prof. M.L. Bhatia, Vice President, Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore.

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Delhi University Colleges host International Symposium on Ciliate Biology 2018



Abhay Anand | Apr 7, 2018 - 2:11 p.m. IST

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NEW DELHI, APRIL 7: The International Symposium on Ciliate Biology 2018 (ISCB 2018) was co-organised by Acharya Narendra Dev College, Maitreyi College and SGTB Khalsa College, University of Delhi in partnership with International Research Coordination Network for Biodiversity of Ciliates (IRCNC-B), an affiliate society of International Society of Protistologists (ISOP).

Dr. Mahesh Sharma, MoS, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, graced the inaugural and Professor Chandrima Shaha, Vice President (Foreign Affairs), Indian Academy of Sciences was the chief guest at the Valedictory.

A large contingent of national ciliate biologists was joined by 9 overseas scientists to deliver 20 oral and 57 poster presentations. The specialisations varied from biodiversity to ecology, evolution, role of ciliates in the food web of soil and water, in telomeres, their role as rumen ciliates, bio-indicators of pollution, and in bioremediation among other fields. Use of ciliates as excellent eukaryotic unicellular model systems in science teaching and research was well brought out by all presenters.

A large participation of under-graduate students was a highlight of the symposium. Their enthusiasm in presenting their work and interactions with senior scientists won everyone's heart.

Zoological survey of India (ZSI) came a big way as not only print partners but also in co-organising a workshop "Tools and Techniques used in Ciliate Studies" which was very enthusiastically attended by over 50 participants.

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The organising core committee acknowledges the financial support by international agencies – ISOP and IUBS – and by several national government agencies including INSA, DBT, DST-SERB, CSIR, ICMR, DRDO, ZSI.

The symposium would not have taken a great shape were it not for our advisors, Dr Alan Warren (NHM, UK), Prof Cristina Micefi (Camerino, Italy), Prof GR Sapra, Prof Rup Lal, Dr Ravi Chaturvedi and members of the national organizing committee.

The Indian Ciliate Biologists held several meetings during this period and the formation of a registered pan India society of ciliate biologists is now well under way. This will pave the way for more national activities in the field and set the ground for collaborations, both among the Indian ciliate biologists and with overseas laboratories.

Another major highlight of the symposium was that ZSI will be publishing the symposium proceedings as a book with ISBN listing and all presenters agreed to contribute their presentations in the form of short research articles; the cover page of the same was launched at the valedictory.

The core committee members, Dr. Komal Kamra (Convener), Dr. Renu Gupta (Organising Secretary), Dr Seema Makhija and Dr Ravi Toteja (Joint Secretaries) express gratitude to the Principals of the organising colleges and other staff members for extending full support for the successful conduct of the International Symposium on Ciliate Biology 2018.

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ISCB 2018

International Symposium on Ciliate Biology

with

**International Research Coordination Network
for Biodiversity of Ciliates**

affiliated society of

International Society of Protistologists

April 04-06, 2018

at

India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, INDIA

Themes: Biodiversity, Ecology, Evolution, Genetics and Epigenetics,
Genomics and Meta genomics, proteomics and DNA barcoding,
Ciliates and Industry, Ciliates as model organisms in UG teaching and in research,
other individual specializations in microbiology

Some of our confirmed international speakers along with Indian Ciliate Biology Fraternity

Alan Warren	Cristina Miceli	Antonietta La Terza	Giulio Petroni	Bettina Sonntag	Rosaura Mayén-Estrada	Carlos A Durán-Ramírez	Hamed A Elserhny	Saleh Al-Farraj	Saleh Alqurashi
London UK	Camerino, Italy		Pisa, Italy	Innsbruck Austria	León Area Mexico			Riyadh Saudi Arabia	

Come join the symposium, as a presenter (oral/ poster), or as a participant, and interact with the best speakers, share and collaborate

Last Date for Registration & Abstract Submission

January 15, 2018

Visit Symposium Website www.iscb2018.com for Details

Core Organizing Secretariat (from University of Delhi, India)

Convener Dr Komal Kamra SGTB Khalsa College	Organizing Secretary Dr Renu Gupta Maitreyi College	Joint Secretaries Dr Seema Makhija, Dr Ravi Toteja Acharya Narendra Dev College
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Our Sponsors: ISOP, Indian National Science Academy, Department of Biotechnology (Government of India) [on date]

