

**N. Venugopal, Ph.D. [University of Madras, Chennai (Madras)]
Professor**



Professor N. Venugopal joined the Department in 1992 as a lecturer and as a Reader in 2002. He became professor in the year 2005. Prof N. Venugopal specializes in Plant Anatomy and Reproductive Biology and continued his research in the broad areas of Phytogeography, Plant Anatomy and Development and Reproductive Biology.

With over 35 years of teaching/research experience, Prof. Venugopal supervised 15 research students and has produced 10 research students for Ph.D. Degree. Currently four research students are working under his supervision on different aspects of reproductive biology of angiosperm. He has already completed successfully two research projects, CSIR funded project on “A study on the environmental information in tree rings of some north-eastern Himalayan tree species” and MoEF funded project “All India Coordinated Research project on Reproductive Biology of Four Rare, Endangered and Threatened (RET) Tree species namely *Aquilaria malaxensis* Lamk. (Syn=*Aquilaria agallocha*) (Thymeleaceae), *Gymnocladus assamicus* Kanj.Ex. P.C. Kanjilal, Caesalpinaceae), *Ilex khasiana* Purakaystha, (Aquifoliaceae) and *Illicium griffithii* Hook.f. & Thoms. (Illiciaceae) of North East India particularly in Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya.” Currently he is the Co-PI of an undergoing DBT funded project entitled “Preventing Extinction and Improving Conservation Status of Threatened Plant Species through Application of Biotechnological Tools”.

Prof. N. Venugopal has done immense work regarding the reproductive biology and conservation of various economically and medicinally important plant species including orchids most of which are endangered and threatened. He has attended and presented several research papers. In 1997 he has delivered a research paper in the 13th International Conference on Plant Morphology, Anatomy and Systematic at Belgium. He has to his credit more than 40 research publications in various national and international journals.

He has also explored most of the region in Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh and in 2014 he rediscovered *Gymnocladus assamicus* (Caesalpinaceae) from Laitseh and *Podostemum subulatus*, *Polypterum wallichii*, *Hydrobryium griffithii* from Fossil Park, Mawsyndram, Meghalaya which were thought to be extinct in this particular state. He also discovered a new species of *Illicium* (*Illicium arunachalensis* N. Venugopal & Ester Jones Marbaniang) from the hilly slopes of Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh and has contributed immensely to the wealth of the Indian Biodiversity.