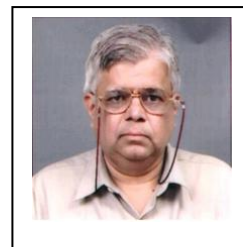


**Professor J. G. Vaidya**

Former Professor

Department of Botany

Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune

**About Late Prof. J. G. Vaidya**

Late Prof. J. G. Vaidya was a distinguished faculty member in the Department of Botany at Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune. He made remarkable contributions to mycology, particularly in the taxonomy and biology of Aphyllophorales, a group of medicinal fungi. His research focused on pharmacognostic studies of two significant medicinal mushrooms, *Ganoderma* and *Phellinus*, naturally occurring in the Western Ghats of India, also known as Phansomba. Additionally, he explored the medicinal potential of various folk fungi found across India. Prof. Vaidya guided over 10 Ph.D. and 10 M.Phil. students and authored more than 70 research papers, several book chapters, and a book. His dedication and perseverance in mycology earned him widespread recognition at both national and international levels. Throughout his career, he actively participated in over 80 national conferences, 14 international conferences, and 56 university refresher courses. He was frequently invited as a resource person to various institutions and had the privilege of collaborating with esteemed mycologists such as Dr. Stapler. Notably, he was one of the experts in Aphyllophorales from the country, a contribution of great significance in the field.

**Award Instituted by:** Dr. Mahesh Borde, Assistant Professor, Department of Botany, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune - 411007, India

**Award Guidelines**

**Name of the Award:** Prof. J. G. Vaidya Memorial Award for Young Researchers

**Periodicity:** The Award shall be conferred annually to the winners of Poster Presentations (3 Nos)

**Eligibility criteria:** Active Ph.D. scholars under the age of 35 who have made outstanding contributions to fungal biodiversity, taxonomy, phylogeny, systematics, or applications are eligible for this award. The award is exclusively intended for registered *bona fide* Ph.D. scholars. Permanent faculty members, post-doctoral fellows, and teachers are not eligible.

**Administration of the Award:** AFB shall have the sole authority to select the recipient of the award and to formulate and/or revise the rules governing such selection.

**Value of the Award:** The First, Second, and Third place winners of the Poster Presentations will be felicitated with a memento and a citation. The award does not include a cash prize.

**Procedure for Selection of Recipients:** The Association will invite nominations from active, registered Ph.D. scholars. A separate award competition for the nominated candidates will be organized during the annual conference. A three-member judging committee will be appointed by AFB to select the winners of the poster presentation. The committee has the authority to disqualify any candidate found engaging in canvassing. The decision of the committee constituted by AFB shall be final. Once awarded, the recipient may apply for any other AFB award(s) only after a two-year gap from the date of receiving the award.

**Presentation of the Award:** Once the judging committee has selected the winners, the awards will be presented during the valedictory session of the annual meeting or conference.

**Late Prof. M.S. Patil**

Former Professor and Head,  
Department of Botany  
Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Maharashtra

**About Late Prof. M.S. Patil**

Late Prof. M.S. Patil, born in 1940 in Maharashtra, pursued his education in chemistry and botany, earning his M.Sc. from the University of Poona. He began his research in mycology at Poona University in 1968 and later obtained his Ph.D. under the mentorship of Prof. S.D. Patil. His academic career spanned over 45 years, during which he taught both undergraduate and postgraduate students, specializing in fungal systematics and plant pathology. As Professor and Head of the Botany Department at Shivaji University, he introduced innovative courses such as sericulture and pest management, while fostering a collaborative and intellectually stimulating environment among students and faculty. Widely known as a "Living Encyclopaedia" for his vast interdisciplinary knowledge, Prof. Patil was not only an exceptional educator but also a prolific researcher. He published over 100 research papers and described numerous new fungal species and genera. His contributions extended beyond teaching; he guided more than 20 Ph.D. and M.Phil. students and engaged in active research collaborations with leading international mycologists. Even after his retirement, he remained academically active as a visiting professor and continued to organize conferences and faculty development programs. His simplicity, discipline, and unwavering commitment to research and education earned him deep respect and admiration from both students and colleagues. He maintained research collaborations with many prominent contemporary mycologists around the world through the exchange of materials, references, and scientific insights. His collaborators included Dr. I.R. Hall (New Zealand), Prof. Norman C. Schenck (USA), Dr. James M. Trappe (USA), Dr. R.W.G. Dennis (UK), Dr. R.F. Cain (Canada), Dr. K. Vánky (Germany), among others.

**Award Instituted by:** Prof. Anjali Patil, Head of the Department of Botany, Rajaram College (Government of Maharashtra), Kolhapur – 416004, India

**Award Guidelines****Name of the Award: Prof. M.S. Patil Memorial Award for Young Researchers**

**Periodicity:** The award shall be conferred annually to three winners for outstanding oral presentations

**Eligibility criteria:** The award is intended for active faculty members or professionals (not exceeding 45 years of age) who have made outstanding contributions to fungal biodiversity, taxonomy, systematics, and applied mycology. It is exclusively open to permanent faculty or professionals; Ph.D. scholars are not eligible for this award.

**Administration of the Award:** AFB shall have the exclusive authority to select the award recipient and to formulate and/or revise the rules governing the selection process.

**Value of the Award:** The first, second, and third prize winners of the oral presentation will be felicitated with a memento and a citation. The award does not include any cash prize.

**Procedure for Selection of Recipients:**

The Association will invite nominations from active faculty members and professionals. A separate award competition for the nominated candidates will be conducted during the annual conference. A three-member judging committee, appointed by the AFB, will be responsible for evaluating the oral presentations and selecting the first, second, and third prize winners. The committee also holds the authority to disqualify any candidate found engaging in canvassing. The decision of the committee constituted by AFB shall be final and binding. Once awarded, a recipient will be eligible to apply for any other AFB award only after a period of two years from the date of receiving the award.

**Presentation of the Award:** Once the judging committee has finalized the winners, the awards will be presented during the valedictory session of the annual meeting or conference.

**Prof. Kamal**

Former Head

Department of Botany

DDU Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur, UP

**About Prof. Kamal**

Prof. Kamal, born on September 2, 1941, in Kushinagar District, overcame his modest background to achieve academic excellence. He pursued his education at Uditnarayan Kshatriya Inter College before earning his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Gorakhpur. His research journey began at Gorakhpur University under Prof. K.S. Bhargava, leading to his Ph.D. in Botany. Joining the university as a lecturer in 1969, he dedicated his career to mycological research, focusing on soil microbiology, aeromycology, and plant pathogenic fungi. His work extended across India and into Nepal, earning him advanced training at Swiss Federal Institute of Technology under Prof. Emil Müller. He held esteemed fellowships, including at Tribhuvan University in Nepal and Dr. H.S. Gaur University, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, and actively contributed to scientific conferences and organizations, serving as President of the Mid-Eastern Zone of the Indian Phytopathological Society and Vice-President of the Mycological Society of India. With over 250 research papers, Prof. Kamal significantly advanced the taxonomy of foliar fungi, discovering more than 200 new species and several new genera. His work appeared in prestigious international journals, and he collaborated with renowned mycologists worldwide. As a mentor, he guided over 60 Ph.D. students and co-authored four books, along with a monograph on Indian cercosporoid fungi. Respected for his integrity, wisdom, and dedication, he remained an influential educator and researcher. His perseverance and intellectual contributions, despite his humble beginnings, left a lasting legacy in mycology.

**Award Instituted by:** Dr. Sanjay Singh, Scientist-F, National Fungal Culture Collection of India (NFCCI), Agharkar Research Institute, Pune – 411004, India.

**Award Guidelines**

**Name of the Award:** Prof. Kamal Merit Lecture Award

**Periodicity:** The award shall be conferred annually to one nominated recipient.

**Eligibility criteria:** An active senior AFB member (aged above 50 years) with outstanding contributions to fungal biodiversity, taxonomy, systematics, and applied research, including industrial applications.

**Administration of the Award:** AFB shall have the sole authority to select the award recipient and to formulate and/or revise the rules governing the selection process.

**Value of the Award:** The recipient will be felicitated with a memento, citation, and shawl. The award does not include a cash prize.

**Procedure for Selection of Recipients:** AFB will invite nominations from both members and non-members of AFB. Each nomination must include a bio-data in the prescribed format. A screening committee (SC) of three members, appointed by the Executive Council (EC) of AFB, will review the nominations. If an EC or SC member is nominated, he/she should not be part of the EC or SC. After EC approval of the SC's recommendations, the award will be announced and reported at the Annual General Body Meeting (AGM). The SC has the authority to disqualify any candidate found canvassing. A recipient can receive the award only once. The nominee must be an AFB life member. Non-members selected for the award must obtain life membership by paying a non-refundable fee before receiving the award. Once awarded, the awardee can apply for any other award(s) of AFB after three years of completion.

**Presentation of the Award:** Once the Executive Council approves the name recommended by the SC, the decision will be officially announced. The Association will notify the selected recipient and invite them to deliver a lecture during the annual meeting. The lecture will be published in the official journal of the Association, *Mycological Spectrum* and must not exceed 10 printed pages. If the recipient is unable to deliver the lecture due to illness or other unavoidable circumstances, they may present it the following year. However, if they are unable to attend the following year as well, the award will be forfeited.

**Prof. Kandikere Ramaiah Sridhar**

Adjunct Professor, Department of Biosciences  
Mangalore University, Karnataka, India

**About Prof. Kandikere Ramaiah Sridhar**

Prof. Kandikere Ramaiah Sridhar, Editor-in-Chief of MycoIndia Journal of Indian Fungi, is an Adjunct Professor at Mangalore University with over 45 years of academic experience. A leading authority in mycology, he has supervised 5 MPhil and 25 PhD scholars, contributing significantly to the advancement of fungal biology. His research primarily explores freshwater fungi in the biodiversity-rich Western Ghats and coastal regions of western India. Prof. Sridhar has authored and edited 19 books and published over 500 scientific papers. He has held visiting positions in Canada, Germany, Portugal, and Thailand, and is internationally recognized as one of the world's foremost mycologists. He is currently serving as a visiting professor in Bangkok.

**Award Instituted by:**

Dr. Belle Damodara Shenoy, Principal Scientist, Principal Scientist, CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography, Regional Centre Visakhapatnam, India

**Award Guidelines**

**Name of the Award:** Prof. Kandikere Ramaiah Sridhar Award for Young Researchers in Aquatic Mycology

**Periodicity:** The award shall be conferred annually based on poster presentations focused on aquatic fungi (= fungi that live in aquatic environments, including freshwater, marine, and brackish habitats). The number of awards will depend on the number and quality of eligible posters presented in this category.

**Eligibility Criteria:** The award is open to active Ph.D. scholars under the age of 35 who have made outstanding contributions to aquatic mycology, including fungal biodiversity, taxonomy, phylogeny, systematics, and ecological or applied aspects of aquatic fungi. Only registered *bona fide* Ph.D. scholars are eligible. Permanent faculty members, post-doctoral fellows, and teachers are not eligible for this award.

**Administration of the Award:** Association for Fungal Biologists (AFB) shall have the exclusive authority to select the recipients of the award and to formulate and/or revise the rules governing the selection process.

**Value of the Award:** Winners will be felicitated with a citation and a memento. The award does not include a cash prize.

**Procedure for Selection of Recipients:** AFB will invite nominations from registered, active Ph.D. scholars. A special poster competition on aquatic mycology will be organized during the annual AFB conference. A three-member judging committee, appointed by AFB, will evaluate the poster presentations and select the winners. The number of awards will be decided based on the quality and number of eligible presentations. The committee reserves the right to disqualify any candidate found canvassing. The decision of the committee shall be final. Once awarded, a recipient may apply for any other AFB award only after a two-year gap from the date of receiving this award.

**Presentation of the Award:** The winners will be honoured during the valedictory session of the annual meeting or conference.