

National Professor A.K.M. Nurul Islam and his achievements



The present Volume 14 of the 'Bangladesh Journal of Plant Taxonomy' has been dedicated as a Commemorative Volume to the respected memory of National Professor A.K.M. Nurul Islam (1928-2006). Prof. Nurul Islam is regarded as the 'Father of Phycology and Limnology' in Bangladesh for his remarkable leadership and outstanding contributions in these fields of Biological Sciences. He had been associated with the Department of Botany of the University of Dhaka for 54 years as a faculty member till his death. The receipt of National Professorship from the Government of Bangladesh in early 2006 demonstrated the ultimate recognition of his contributions at the national level. He was one of the founder members of 'Bangladesh Association of Plant Taxonomists' and was holding the positions of the President of the Association and Chief Editor of its journal the 'Bangladesh Journal of Plant Taxonomy' till his demise.

In the last issue of the Journal (Volume 13, No. 2, December 2006) we announced the sad departure of Prof. Islam on 1 July 2006. There we briefly touched upon his distinguished career as a teacher, scientist and mentor, and also his dedication and contributions to Botanical research and Science as a whole.

Here we are trying to highlight Prof. Islam's achievements¹ registering all his scientific papers; publications he was associated with as an author, editor and contributor; positions he held in different academic institutions and organizations; journals he edited; and awards and honours he received as appreciations of his contributions to Science.

A. Research publications (chronologically)

1. Islam, Nurul 1960. Some subaerial green algae from East Pakistan. *Trans. Amer. Micros. Soc.* **79**(4): 471-479. (USA)
2. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1961. The genus *Cloniophora* Tiffany. *Revue Algologique* n.s.t. **6**(1): 7-32. (France)
3. Aziz, K.M.S. and Islam, Nurul 1962. A new species of *Fritschiella iyengar* from East Pakistan. *Trans. Amer. Micros. Soc.* **81**(2): 185-189. (USA)
4. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1962. A new species of *Oedocladium* from East Pakistan with notes on the genus. *Trans. Amer. Micros. Soc.* **81**(4): 372-379. (USA)

¹This compilation is chiefly based upon Prof. Islam's bio-data regularly updated by Md. Shah Alam of the Department of Botany, University of Dhaka as advised by Prof. Islam.

5. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1963. A revision of the genus *Stigeoclonium*. Beiheft zur Nova Hedwigia **10**: 1-165+ pls. 47. J. Cramer Publisher, Weinheim. (W. Germany)
6. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Sarma, P. 1963. Two new species of terrestrial *Oedogonium* from East Pakistan. Trans. Amer. Micros. Soc. **82**(1): 74-77. (USA)
7. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1964. The genus *Cladophorella* newly found in East Pakistan. Revue Algologique **7**(4): 275-289. (France)
8. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Ahia, A.N.M. 1964. Contribution to the knowledge of Chaetophoraceae of Dacca district. Pak. J. Biol. & Ag. Sc. **7**(1): 103-110. (Pakistan)
9. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Sarma, P. 1964. Contribution to the knowledge of Oedogoniales of Dacca district, East Pakistan. Pak. J. Biol. & Ag. Sc. **7**(1): 132-135. (Pakistan)
10. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Sarma, P. 1964. Preliminary survey of the epizoic *Oedogonium* growing on the shells of freshwater molluscs in East Pakistan. Rev. Algologique **7**(2): 178-186. (France)
11. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and P. Sarma. 1965. New and rare species and varieties of the Oedogoniales from Dacca district, East Pakistan. Pak. J. Biol. & Agric. Sci. **8**(1): 169-188. (Pakistan)
12. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1965a. Taxonomic study of the species of *Dichotomosiphon* and *Vaucheria* found in East Pakistan. Proc. Pak. Acad. Sci. **2**(1): 47-56+ pls. 1-9. (Pakistan)
13. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1965b. Occurrence of the genus *Sirocladium* in East Pakistan. Pak. J. Biol. & Agric. Sci. **8**(2): 264-270. (Pakistan)
14. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Khatun, M. 1966. Preliminary studies on the phytoplanktons of polluted waters. Sci. Res. **3**(2): 94-109. (Pakistan)
15. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Nahar, L. 1967. Preliminary studies on the phytoplanktons of polluted waters. Part II. Blue-green algae. Sci. Res. **4**(2&3): 141-149. (Pakistan)
16. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Sarma, D. 1968. The Characeae of East Pakistan. I. *Lychnothamnus* and *Chara*. Jour. Asiatic Soc. Pak. **13**(3): 357-379 + pls. 1-11. (Pakistan)
17. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1969a. Some rare planktonic green algae found in East Pakistan. Pakistan J. Botany **1**: 19-32. (Pakistan)
18. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1969b. *Kirchneriellosaccus lunatus* Islam Gen. et Sp. nov., a new member of Chlorococcales. Rev. Alg. n.s.t. **9**(4): 348-358 + pls. 18-19. (France)
19. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1969. A preliminary report on the phytoplanktons and other algal flora of Chittagong Hill-tracts. Jour. Asiatic Soc. Pak. **14**(3): 343-363 + pls. 1-13. (Pakistan)
20. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Uddin, M.A. 1969. Studies on the blue-green algae of Dacca district. Dacca Univ. Stud. Part B **17**: 85-102. (Pakistan)
21. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1970a. The genus *Tetrasporidium* in East Pakistan. Rev. Alg. **10**(1): 85-89. (France)
22. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1970b. Contribution to the knowledge of desmids of East Pakistan. Part I. Nova Hedwigia **20**: 903-983. (W. Germany)

23. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1970c. Preliminary ecological report on the marine algal flora of the St. Martin's Island, East Pakistan. Jour. Asiatic Soc. Pak. **15**(3): 273-282 + pls. 3. (Pakistan)
24. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Begum, Z.T. 1970. Studies on the phytoplanktons of Dacca District. Jour. Asiatic Soc. Pak. **15**(3): 227-271 + pls. 8. (Pakistan)
25. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1972a. The genus *Bulbochaete* in Bangladesh. Bangladesh J. Bot. **1**(1-2): 1-12. (Bangladesh)
26. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1972b. Subaerial algae of Bangladesh. Bangladesh J. Bot. **1**(1-2): 13-64. (Bangladesh)
27. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1972c. New and rare species of some green algae from Bangladesh. Nova Hedwigia. **23**: 655-663 + pls. 14. (W. Germany)
28. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1973a. A new species of *Boodleopsis* (Chlorophyta) from Bangladesh. Bangladesh J. Bot. **2**(1): 53-67. (Bangladesh)
29. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1973b. Freshwater algae of Bangladesh. I. Chlorophyceae, Xanthophyceae and Chrysophyceae. Dacca Univ. Stud. B **21**(1): 69-84. (Bangladesh)
30. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1973c. The algal flora of Sundarbans Mangrove Forest, Bangladesh. Bangladesh J. Bot. **2**(2): 11-36. (Bangladesh)
31. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1973d. Freshwater algae of Bangladesh. III. Cyanophyceae. Dacca Univ. Stud. B **21**(2): 133-139. (Bangladesh)
32. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Uddin, M.A. 1973. Freshwater algae of Bangladesh. II. Cyanophyceae. Dacca Univ. Stud. B **21**(2): 127-132. (Bangladesh)
33. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1974a. Freshwater algae of Bangladesh. IV. *Aphanochaete*, *Coleochaete* and *Chaetosphaeridium*. Bangladesh J. Bot. **3**(1): 35-43. (Bangladesh)
34. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1974b. A preliminary list of benthic marine algae from the Bay of Bengal, Bangladesh. Bangladesh J. Bot. **3**(1): 83-91. (Bangladesh)
35. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1974c. Preliminary studies on the food of some fish. Dacca Univ. Stud. B **22**(1): 47-51. (Bangladesh)
36. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1974d. Freshwater algae of Bangladesh. VII. Flagellates: Volvocales. Bangladesh J. Bot. **3**(2): 7-15. (Bangladesh)
37. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Zaman, A.M.S. 1974. Freshwater algae of Bangladesh. VIII. Ulotrichales. Dacca Univ. Stud. B **22**(2): 83-98. (Bangladesh)
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39. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1975a. Addition to the genus *Coleochaete* from Bangladesh. J. Asiatic Soc. Bangladesh (Sc.) **1**(1): 71-72. (Bangladesh)
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42. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Aziz, A. 1975b. Study of marine phytoplankton from the north-eastern Bay of Bengal, Bangladesh. *Bangladesh J. Bot.* **4**(1-2): 1-32. (Bangladesh)
43. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Haroon, A.K.Y. 1975. Limnological studies of the river Buriganga. II. Biological aspect. *Dacca Univ. Stud. B* **23**(1): 25-44. (Bangladesh)
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47. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1976b. Addition to the species of *Vaucheria* in Bangladesh. *Dacca Univ. Stud. B* **24**(1): 59-62. (Bangladesh)
48. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1976c. Freshwater algae of Bangladesh. VI. Genus *Oedogonium*. *Nova Hedwigia.* **27**(3-4): 919-925 + pls. 1-5. (W. Germany)
49. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Mendes, F. 1976a. Limnological studies of a jheel in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. *Dacca Univ. Stud. B* **24**(2): 63-67. (Bangladesh)
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52. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Sarma, P. 1976. Freshwater algae of Bangladesh. V. Genus *Oedogonium*. *Nova Hedwigia.* **27**: 425-454. (W. Germany)
53. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Sobhan, A. 1976. Ecology and periodicity of the members of Zygnemaceae in Dacca district. *J. Asiatic Soc. Bangladesh B* **1**(2): 113-116. (Bangladesh)
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59. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Mendes, F. 1977a. Studies on the proteins in blue-green algae of Bangladesh. I. Preliminary investigations. *Dacca Univ. Stud. B* **25**(1): 23-27. (Bangladesh)
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63. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Haroon, A.K.Y. 1978. New reports of some members of Chaetophoraceae from Bangladesh. *Nova Hedwigia* **29**(3-4): 537-556. (W. Germany)
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65. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Khair, A. 1978a. Addition to the list of marine algae of St. Martin's Island. I. Genus *Codium* Stackhouse. *J. Asiatic Soc. Bangladesh (Sc.)* **4**(1): 123-126. (Bangladesh)
66. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Khair, A. 1978b. Report of some phytoplankton from lake Kaptai, Chittagong Hill-Tracts. *Dacca Univ. Stud. B* **26**(2): 53-61. (Bangladesh)
67. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Paul, N. 1978. Hydrobiological study of the *haor* Hakaluki in Sylhet. *J. Asiatic Soc. Bangladesh (Sc.)* **4**(1): 83-91. (Bangladesh)
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71. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1979a. Addition to the list of Oedogoniaceae from Bangladesh. *Dacca Univ. Stud. B* **27**(1): 47-52. (Bangladesh)
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73. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1979c. Genus *Chloroctonium* Borzi in Bangladesh. *Bangladesh J. Bot.* **8**(1-2): 113-115. (Bangladesh)
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75. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Chowdhury, A.R. 1979. Hydrobiological studies of Dhanmondi lake, Dacca. II. Phytoplankton. *J. Asiatic Soc. Bangladesh (Sc.)* **5**(2): 47-57. (Bangladesh)

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78. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1980a. Study on *Triplastrum* found in Bangladesh with a note on its species. *Bangladesh J. Bot.* **9**(1): 1-12. (Bangladesh)
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83. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Haroon, A.K.Y. 1980. Desmids of Bangladesh. *Int. Revue ges. Hydrobiol.* **65**(4): 551-604. (W. Germany)
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86. Al-Saadi, H.A., Antoine, S.E. and Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1981. Limnological investigation in Al-Hammara marsh area in Southern Iraq. *Nova Hedwigia* **35**: 157-166. (W. Germany)
87. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul 1981. Study of algal flora of Tibet and Bangladesh. *In: Proc. Symp. on Qinghai-Xizang (Tibet) Plateau. Geological and Ecological studies on Qinghai-Xizang Plateau* **2**: 1141-1143. Science Press, Beijing. (China).
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89. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Begum, Z.T. 1981b. Addition to the list of blue-green algae of Bangladesh. II. *Bangladesh J. Bot.* **10**(1): 1-15. (Bangladesh)
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91. Begum, Z.T and A.K.M. Nurul Islam 1982. Preliminary studies on the effects of blue-green algae in rice yield. *Dacca Univ. Stud. B* **30**(1): 145-147. (Bangladesh)
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93. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Aziz, A. 1982. Addition to the list of marine algae of St. Martin's Island, Bangladesh. II. Brown, red and blue-green algae. *Nova Hedwigia* **36**: 643-657. (W. Germany)
94. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Hameed, H.A. 1982. Some epizoic algae from Southern Iraq. *Bull. Basrah Nat. Hist. Museum* **5**: 109-115. (Iraq)
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183. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Akter, N. 2004. Desmids from some selected areas of Bangladesh: 2. Genus *Staurastrum* Meyen. Bangladesh J. Plant Taxon. **11**(2): 15-28. (Bangladesh)
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189. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Alfasane, M.A. 2005. Notes on two green plankton found in Bangladesh. Bangladesh J. Plant Taxon. **12**(2): 97-99. (Bangladesh)
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193. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Akter, N. 2006. Desmids from some selected areas of Bangladesh: 3. Genus *Staurastrum* Meyen (2). Bangladesh J. Plant Taxon. **13**(1): 41-47. (Bangladesh)
194. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Irfanullah, H.M. 2006a. Hydrobiological studies within the tea gardens at Srimangal, Bangladesh. V. Desmids (*Euastrum*, *Micrasterias*, *Actinotaenium* and *Cosmarium*). Bangladesh J. Plant Taxon. **13**(1): 1-20. (Bangladesh)
195. Islam, A.K.M. Nurul and Irfanullah, H.M. 2006b. Hydrobiological studies within the tea gardens at Srimangal, Bangladesh. VI. Desmids (*Xanthidium*, *Arthrodesmus*, *Stauroidesmus* and *Staurastrum*). Bangladesh J. Plant Taxon. **13**(2): 111-129. (Bangladesh)

B. List of scientific contributions other than research publications

1. Contributor of the 'Encyclopedia of Flora and Fauna of Bangladesh', volumes on algae, to be published by the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, Dhaka.
2. *Gachgachali* (Flora of Bangladesh) (in Bangla), Bangla Academy, Dhaka, pp. 108 (1985).

C. Other publications, presentations and lectures

1. *Onno Kono Shur* (Some other tune) (a poetry book in Bangla), Hassan Book House, Dhaka, pp. 80 (1992).
2. Numerous popular articles and notes in magazines and national newspapers on plants, science in general, education, history, and culture.
3. Numerous papers presented at scientific meetings, seminars and workshops on algae, plant taxonomy, freshwater ecology, aquatic pollution, ecology and development, wetland conservation, oceanography, marine biology and plant science and biological science in general in Bangladesh as well as abroad (e.g. China, Germany and India).
4. Delivered many thought-provoking lectures as a Chair, Presidents or Fellow of different organizations and institutions.

D. Books edited

1. Two Centuries of Plant Studies in Bangladesh and Adjacent Regions. Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, Dhaka, pp. 299 (1991).
2. Plant Science and Man: Problems and prospects. Bangladesh Botanical Society, Dhaka (1992).
3. *Bangla Academy Bijnan Biswakosh* (Bangla Academy Science Encyclopaedia) (in Bangla) (Biology Section), Volumes 1-5, Bangla Academy, Dhaka (1998-2005).

E. Research projects supervised

(Sponsored by the UGC)

1. Investigation of high protein-yielding blue-green algae in Bangladesh
2. Survey of freshwater plants of Bangladesh and their utilization
3. Botanical survey of marine and estuarine waters

F. Positions held in institutions and organizations

1. 54 years' association with the Department of Botany of the University of Dhaka as a Lecturer (1952-1962), Reader (1962-1972), Professor (1972-1990), Supernumerary Professor (1990-2000), Honorary Professor (2001-January 2006) and National Professor (February 2006-1 July 2006)
2. Head and Chairman, Department of Botany, University of Dhaka (between 1964 & 1975)
3. Founder Dean, Faculty of Biological Sciences, Dhaka University (1975-1977)
4. Visiting Professor, Dept. of Biology, Basrah University, Iraq (1978, 1980-1982)
5. Director, Centre of Advanced Studies in Biological Sciences (1983-1989)
6. President (1985-1986), Vice-President and Secretary, Bangladesh Botanical Society
7. President (1992-93), Vice-President and Treasurer, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh
8. Team Leader of the Bangladesh Govt. (Sci. & Tech. Ministry) Project on the "Feasibility Study for the Establishment of National Institute of Oceanography in Bangladesh" (1993)

9. Team Leader, BTRI Mandate Review Committee (2000-2001), sponsored by BARC
10. President (2002-2006) and Vice-President, Bangladesh Association of Plant Taxonomists

G. Editorial positions held

1. Chief Editor, Bangladesh Journal of Plant Taxonomy (2002-2006)
2. Chief Editor, Bangladesh Journal of Botany for several years
3. Editor, Dhaka University Studies, Part B
4. Editor, Dhaka University Studies, Part E
5. Editor, Bangladesh Journal of Sci. Res. (BAAS)
6. Editor, Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh (Sci.)
7. Member, Editorial Committee, Journal of the Academy of Sciences
8. Member, Editorial Committee, Journal of Microbiology
9. Ex-member, Advisory Committee for the preparation of the District Gazetteers of Bangladesh (1963-1980)
10. Ex-member, Bangla Academy Journal (Science)

H. Awards and honours received

1. Fellow, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (1980)
2. Fellow, Bangladesh Botanical Society (1994)
3. Fellow, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh (2004)
4. Jessup Fellowship, National Academy of Science Philadelphia, USA (1959)
5. SEATO Senior Fellowship, in Marine Biology in Australia, New Zealand and Japan (1970-1971)
6. Gold Medal (Senior Group), Bangladesh Academy of Sciences for contributions in the field of Biological Sciences (1993)
7. Honoured with citations and crest, Dhaka University Alumni Association, along with other 28 senior distinguished teachers of the University of Dhaka for their achievements during the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the University (1996)
8. Eminent Botanist Gold Medal 2002, Bangladesh Botanical Society, with citation during its International Conference held at Dhaka (2003)
9. Honorary Professorship, Dhaka University Syndicate offered after the end of the Supernumerary Professorship (2001)
10. National Professorship, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (February 2006).

I. Other important achievements

1. Prof. A.K.M. Nurul Islam described the algal genus *Kirchnerielloosaccus* Islam (1969). He and his co-workers described about 300 algal species and sub-specific taxa new to science, many of which have been included in the world monographs.
2. Over the past five decades he guided about 40 students for MSc and a few for PhD degrees in the fields of phycology, limnology, hydrobiology and marine biology.
3. External examiner of PhD theses of i) Auckland University, New Zealand; ii) University of Chittagong, Bangladesh and iii) University of Kalyani, India.
4. Life Member of different learned societies of Bangladesh. He also served as a Member of different national committees of the country established for the development of education and science.

- Haseeb Md. Irfanullah