

**TRIBUTE TO REV. DR RICHARD WILLIAM TIMM, CSC (1923-2020): FIRST
EDITOR OF THE BANGLADESH JOURNAL OF ZOOLOGY**



It is with deepest regret that we report the sad demise of Rev. Father Dr Richard William Timm, CSC on September 11, 2020 at the age of 97. We express our most sincere condolences to his family, colleagues and friends. Rev. Father Richard William Timm, CSC, known as Father Timm, was born in Michigan, Indiana, USA, on March 2nd, 1923. He was an educator, an eminent zoologist, an internationally famed researcher and a dedicated Catholic priest actively participated in social development work in Bangladesh. Father Timm established the Biology department at the Saint Gregory's College in 1952 at old Dhaka. Later in 1954 he moved to the Notre Dame College (NDC) and established the Biology department. He was also the 6th Principal of NDC. He

wrote the famous book, *A Text Book of College Biology* along with A. Bhuiya in early seventies. On March 25, 2015, in an interview at Georgetown University at Berkley Center, USA he said 'I was focused on research and teaching for my first 40 years in Bangladesh. I was a zoologist, an expert in nematodes. In fact, I discovered several species myself, and other scientists have named several new genera or species after me.' Father Timm discovered 262 new species belonging to 48 new genera of nematodes reporting mostly from Bangladesh. In addition, he was honoured by other nematologists by naming few genera (*Timmi*, *Timmia*, *Timmineme*, *Timnius*, etc) and 12 new species after him.

The Zoology Department at University of Dhaka was established in 1954. He had collaboration of works with the teachers and researchers of this foremost institution of this country. As an educator Father Timm encouraged initiatives in publishing the foremost scientific journal on zoological science. In the year 1973 he took the responsibility as an editor of the first volume of the Bangladesh Journal of Zoology.

Probably, the unknown contribution of Father Timm as a Fulbright Lecturer has been the teacher and mentor for many of the doctors of Dhaka Medical College in 1953-54. Despite of spending most of his time with human welfare with CARITAS and human rights, he was awarded the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1987. His enthusiasm for science was sincere, as he loved science and research along with humanities. He was very generous and always shared his knowledge with others zoologists and scientists with a friendly approach.

We all miss him not only as a scientist with a deep knowledge but as a great friend of zoologist we admired and loved so much.

M Niamul Naser PhD
Editor-in-Chief, BJZ.