

Obituary for K.C. Jayaram

Dr. K.C. Jayaram, an eminent Indian Ichthyologist passed away on 8 August 2011.

Dr. Jayaram joined as an Assistant in the ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA in 9.7.1947. He worked for a short period from 1953-56 and again in 1964 in the Central Inland Fisheries, Allahabad. With sheer hard work and dedication he rose to the level of Scientist F in the Zoological Survey of India and superannuated on 29.2.1984 after having been given extension of service for two years, the only instance in the history of the ZSI.

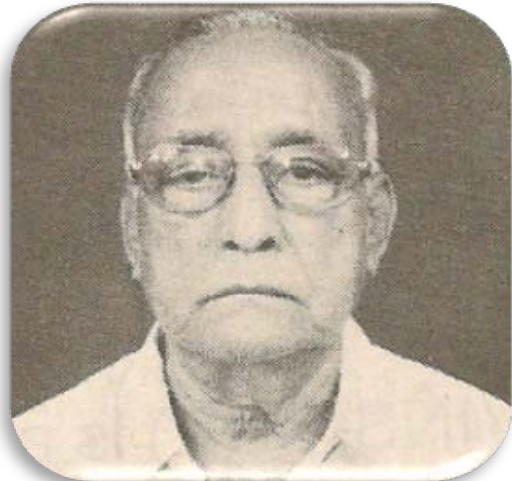
He was a contemporary of other renowned Indian Ichthyologists viz. Dr. A.G.K.Menon, Dr. E.G.Silas and Dr. P. K. Talwar and was lucky to have been trained and guided by the father of Indian Ichthyology the late Dr. S. L. Hora, under whom he completed his doctoral studies. His Index Horana is a tribute to the work done by his mentor.

Subsequently Dr Jayaram got his Doctorate at the Madras University. He is a Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy, Allahabad, ZSI Bhubaneswar and Madras Science Foundation, Chennai. He was awarded the prestigious Pitambar Pant National Environment Fellowship by the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

His contributions to the study of the taxonomy of Siluriform fishes, the zoogeography of freshwater fishes and his revisionary contributions on the freshwater fish genera viz. *Puntius*, *Labeo* and *Tor* including descriptions of new species and genera won him both National and International acclaim. Several new species and genera have also been named after him.

No freshwater study in India is complete or begun without referring to his book Freshwater Fishes of the Indian Region. He has taken care to see that his publications cater to the needs of any aspiring ichthyologist with books such as Fundamentals of Fish Taxonomy to those on identification of freshwater fishes to those dealing with in-depth taxonomic studies of the various groups.

Apart from this he also took up the study of the various river systems in their totality. He has conducted intensive surveys of many large river systems for their fish fauna such as Brahmaputra, Cauvery, Krishna and Mahanadi. His work on the Cauvery fish fauna is a comprehensive first-time account of the fish fauna of the entire river system. This work served as the basis for an integrated research programme on the same river funded by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.



**Dr. K. C. Jayaram, Renowned Ichthyologist
Photo by ZSI.**

Dr. Jayaram was a member of many scientific committees and his advice was sought after on matters related to river ecology and biodiversity especially in respect of the fish fauna. He has trained and guided a number of students who occupy important positions. He has to his credit several books on Fish Taxonomy and about 120 papers including several monographs published in India and abroad including those on the Deccan Mahaseers. His recent publications include the revised 2010 edition of Freshwater Fishes of the Indian Region and Catfishes of India which kept him busy in recent years. He donated several of his book and literature collections to the Southern Regional Centre of the Zoological Survey of India, in which he served as the officer-in-charge during 1973-74.

He showed keen interest in keeping himself abreast with current revisions and new descriptions, until his last breath. He was a source of encouragement to all the scientists and urged them to keep working and aspire for more and work for their doctorate degrees.

His demise has left a large void in Indian Ichthyology although his publications will keep the spirit alive in the subsequent generations of ichthyologists.

Dr. Jayaram is survived by his wife, three children and four grandchildren and a host of budding ichthyologists.

**Dr. K. Rema Devi, Scientist-E,
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