



The Indian Taxonomist : Hermenegild Santapau

- Prof. Dipali kolekar

Hermenegild Santapau was born in the Catalan province of Tarragona, Spain on 5 December 1903, he was a Spanish-born Indian botanist known for his taxonomical research on Indian flora. He was credited with the Latin nomenclature of several Indian plant species. He secured the theological degree of doctor of Philosophy from the Pontifical Gere University of Rome in 1927 and reached India in 1928 to complete his regency after that he went to London and graduated in Botany from the University of London. From where he later obtained a doctoral degree Santapau worked in Eastern Pyrenees and the Italian Alps Collecting plant specimens for four years. After doing two years of research from 1938 at the herbarium of the Royal Botanical Gardens Kew England. He joined St. Xavier's college Mumbai as a member of the faculty of botany in 1940, he also worked as a lecturer for postgraduate studies in botany at the universities of Mumbai Pune Kolkata and Agra. When the Government of India decided to revive the Government of India, decided Botanical Survey of India. santapau was appointed as the Chief Botanist in 1959. He Worked in BSI for 13 years He directed the International Botanical Congress held at Edinburgh in 1954 in the Congress he represented India at the International standards. Santapau was known for its extensive research work on the Indian flora and was credited with the Latin nomenclature of several plant species. During his career in India, he visited many parts of India and abroad, collecting specimens. Baluchistan, Kathiawar, Dangs forest in Gujarat, the Western and Eastern Ghats, Goa, Assam,



Andhra Pradesh, Eastern Himalayas, Dehradun, and Mussourie were some of the places he visited during the period from 1946 to 1967. His research findings in Taxonomy are reported to have helped to popularize the

Discipline among students and have been documented by way of 216 scientific papers and publications. He collected and preserved around 100000 botanical specimens and he also documented 216 scientific papers and publications. Some of his notable publications are The Flora of Khandala on the Western Ghats of India, The Flora of Purandhar, The orchids of Bombay, The Flora of Saurashtra, The Acanthaceae of Bombay, The Asclepiadaceae and Periplocaceae of Bombay. Santapau served many government committees formed under the aegis of such organizations as the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Indian Council of Medical Research, and the Central Council of Indian Medicine. He was involved in the activities of the Bengal branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, the Bombay Natural History Society, the Indian Science Congress Association, the Indian Psychopathological Society, the International Society of Phytomorphology, and the International Association for Plant Taxonomy, the International Association of Botanical Gardens and the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of Bengal. He was a fellow of the Indian Botanical Society, the National Academy of Sciences, India, and the Linnean Society of London. He was honored by the Government of India in 1967, with the award of Padma Shri, the fourth highest Indian civilian award for his contributions to society.

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