



Obituary

Prof. Dr. Muzaffer Ahmad (1920–2016)

With great sorrow and profound grief, the Pakistan Academy of Sciences announces the sad demise of its Senior Fellow Dr. Muzaffer Ahmad who breathed his last on November 22, 2016 at the age of 97. He was Professor Emeritus of Zoology at University of the Punjab, Lahore, which he joined in 1949 and retired from there in 1980 as Mian Afzal Hussain Professor of Zoology. As Professor Emeritus, he continued to go to his Department at the University till his death.

Prof. Dr. Muzaffer Ahmad was elected Fellow of Pakistan Academy of Sciences as early as in 1970.

Dr. Ahmad was born in India on 20th September 1920 and opted for Pakistan in 1947 while he was studying in USA as a Government of India scholar. He studied at the University of the Lucknow, India; Muslim University, Aligarh; and The University of Chicago.

Dr. Ahmad was recipient of several awards, including *Aizaz-i-Kamal* from the President of Pakistan, Gold Medal (Fellowship), Gold Medal (research publications) and Felicitation from Pakistan Academy of Sciences; Gold Medal jointly awarded by USDA and PARC and Life-time Achievement Award from the Zoological Society of Pakistan.

Dr. Ahmad made valuable contributions to promote the science of Zoology in Pakistan. He was Founder of the Zoological Society of Pakistan and The Pakistan Congress of Zoology. He was the

first Editor of Pakistan Journal of Zoology and The Proceedings of Pakistan Congress of Zoology and then their Editor-in-Chief. He piloted the scheme recommended by the committee appointed by the Ministry of



Science and Technology, Government of Pakistan to establish a museum of Natural History at Islamabad, which is now a full-fledged institution.

He built up one of the world's finest termite collections, mostly from South-East Asia (Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand, Malaysia, Malaya, Sarawak and North Borneo).

Dr. Ahmad's decades-long research on termites has been prominently included (with his photograph) in the 7-volume, 2704-page *Treatise on the Isoptera of the World*, published by the American Museum of Natural History, New York. According to the *Treatise* "his 1950 consideration of termite phylogeny remains as one of the most cited and classic works of the Isoptera".

May the departed soul rest in peace. Aameen.

Prof. Dr. A.R. Shakoori, FPAS