



Satish Chandra Maheshwari (1933–2019)—a brilliant, passionate and an outstanding shining light for all of plant biology

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Abstract We present here a tribute to Satish Chandra Maheshwari (known to many as SCM, or simply Satish), one of the greatest plant biologists of our time. He was born on October 4, 1933, in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India, and passed away in Jaipur, Rajasthan, India, on June 12, 2019. He is survived by two of his younger sisters (Sushila Narsimhan and Saubhagya Agrawal), a large number of friends and students from around the world. He has not only been the discoverer of pollen haploids in plants but has also

contributed immensely to the field of duckweed research and gene regulation. In addition, he has made discoveries in the area of phytochrome research. The scientific community will always remember him as an extremely dedicated teacher and a passionate researcher; and for his wonderful contributions in the field of Plant Biology. See Sopory and Maheshwari (2001) for a perspective on the beginnings of Plant Molecular Biology in India; and see Raghuram (2002a, b) for the growth and contributions of this field in India.

Since 2019 the legal name of Govindjee is 'Govindjee Govindjee'; this manuscript was written while he was at JNU¹, New Delhi, India.

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Introduction

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During the last few years, to the last days of his life, Satish Chandra Maheshwari (hereafter SCM; see Fig. 1 for portraits) served not only as an honorary professor at the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, but also as an honorary scientist of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi. To the very end, he was actively involved in touring across the globe with the aid of internet, gathering all the recent advances in plant biology and disseminating the knowledge through several keynote lectures at various conferences. As a tribute to this passionate plant biologist, SCM, we provide a brief account of his early life and present a summary of his research contributions, particularly in the fields of duckweed research; haploidy and tissue culture; gene regulation; and the phytochrome. The story of phytochrome, particularly SCM's contributions, and his views are included in his own words in three separate boxes. This is followed by a wonderful reminiscence by his sister Sushila Narsimhan (SN), one of the authors.

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