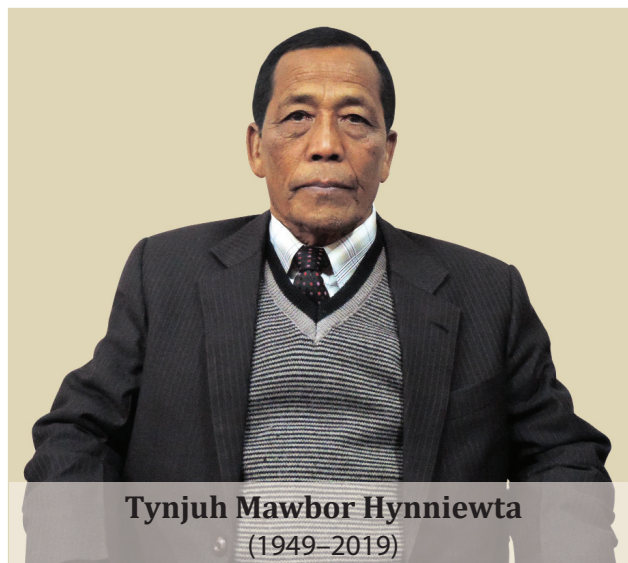


Tynjuh Mawbor Hynniewta (1949 – 2019)

Tynjuh Mawbor Hynniewta (TMH) was born on 1st May, 1949, at Jaiaw Lumsyntiew in East Khasi Hills district, Meghalaya. He had his early education at Shillong Government School, Meghalaya and received his B. Sc. (Hons) from the St. Anthony's college, Guwahati University in 1971, M. Sc. Degree (Botany) from North-eastern Hill University in 1977 and Ph. D. from Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam (1986) on the topic 'Orchidaceae of Nagaland (A contribution towards a detailed knowledge of the Orchid Flora).

He joined Botanical Survey of India as Junior scientific assistant at Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong, on 14th February, 1972 and worked in various capacities. He became the Joint Director (Scientist E) in 5th March, 2003 and superannuated in the same capacity from Eastern Regional Centre as scientist in charge in April, 2009. Throughout his service carrier, he had served in the Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong except a short posting in Sikkim during January 2004 to May 2007. During his stay in Shillong circle as in-charge, he was actively involved in various developmental organizations for the department and successfully organized many activities like Biodiversity Day Celebrations, World Environment Day Celebrations and encouraged participation in Science exhibitions, Flower shows organised by various departments in Meghalaya. He also delivered key note, Presidential and Chairperson addresses in Seminars, Symposia, Workshops and delivered talks in All India Radio related to Biodiversity and Environmental issues.

Dr. Hynniewta had very cordial relationship with his colleagues, subordinates, friends, students and never denied



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any help in his capacity. He always encouraged his junior fellows and students to work hard in their respective fields. He was very punctual, well disciplined and dedicated towards his research work and most importantly a man of integrity. During his service he had extensively surveyed in north-eastern states especially Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Sikkim and collected a number of specimens. In his 40 years of research carrier in floristic studies, orchid taxonomy, ethnobotany, he has published more than 80 research papers in national and international peer review journals.

During his tenure in Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong he worked as a Co-ordinator in the All Indian co-ordinated project on Ethnobotany during 1991-1996 and also involved in the All Indian Co-ordinated project on Taxonomy during the same period. Further in floristic studies he worked on the flora of Nagaland and under funded project of BSI 'Assessment of floristic diversity of protected areas in India' he worked and supervised research scholars on the flora of Nameri and Orang National Parks of Assam and also worked on Law Lyngdoh sacred groves of Meghalaya at Mawphlang. After his transfer to Sikkim Himalayan Region, BSI for three years he completed flora of Maenam wildlife sanctuary, South Sikkim and revisionary studies of Juncaceae and Juncaginaceae in India under Flora of India project guiding a research Scholar. In the family Orchidaceae, he worked on the taxonomy of



A gathering in National Seminar at Guwahati

orchids of Nagaland, Dendrobiums of Northeast India and on few orchid genera like Bulbophyllum, Dendrobium, Paphiopedilum etc. discovering new species, new records and rediscoveries and published two books, Orchids of Nagaland (2000) and Dendrobium Orchids of Northeast India (2019). He took keen interest in Ethno botany, studied the ethno botany of few tribes of Northeast India and authored some notable articles. He also worked on wild plants of floriculture potential and conservation of threatened plants of North Eastern India.

During his service carrier and after the retirement, he has been actively associated with various scientific societies. He was the Chief Editor of 'Pleione' (2011-2014) for 8 volumes; Member of the Editorial Boards of 'Advances in Plant Sciences' (1988-2001) for 28 volumes; editor of NCSC Souvenir 'The Orchids: Biodiversity –Nature for our Future' released by the hon'ble President in 2006; Executive Councillor, The Orchid Society of India; High level working group in Environment Control; member in Standing Committee, North East Biodiversity Research Cell and Expert Committee members in the Traditional and Tribal Knowledge committee of National Biodiversity Authority etc. He was also one of the founding members of Shillong Bio-Resources Development Centre and Education Board. Besides, he was a member of the National Academy of Sciences, India, Fellow of the Indian Botanical Society (FBS), Fellow of Society of Ethnobotanists (FES), Fellow of the Academy of Plant Sciences India (FAPS), Fellow of the Association for Plant Taxonomy (FAPT), Fellow of the East Himalayan Society for Spermatophyte Taxonomy (FEHT), Fellow of International Society for Plant and Environment (FIPE). He is a recipient of an International Award by International Biographical Centre, Cambridge, England.

He was a man of philanthropist. He has instituted two awards in Association of East Himalayan Society for Spermatophyte Taxonomy 'Slotibon Hynniewta Academic Award' since 2012 in memory of his Mother for meritorious students and also the 'Dr T. M. Hynniewta Biodiversity Gold Medal' since 2010 for meritorious Scientists. He



World Environment Day Celebration



World Environment Day Celebration

has guided four research scholars in the field of Taxonomy and Ethno botany and Ph. D degrees have been awarded by Gauhati University.

Dr T. M. HYNNIEWTA, passed away peacefully at his residence on 18th June 2019, after a well-lived life. He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter. Deeply loved and respected by his family, friends, colleagues and students up till the end, he will be remembered for perpetual.

PHD STUDENTS Completed

1. Hajal Samati- An Ethnobotanical study of Jaintia hills district, Meghalaya, India. 2006.
2. Chaya Deori- Eco-Taxonomy of the genus Dendrobium Sw. (Orchidaceae) of Northeast India. 2007.
3. Samim Sofika Begum- Floristic diversity of Nameri National Park, Assam with special reference to rare, endangered and endemic plants. 2008.
4. Geetamani Chhetri- Taxonomic studies of the family Juncaceae of eastern Himalaya. 2010.

Some notable publications of Dr. T. M. Hynniewta.

Books

1. DEORI, C., S.K. SARMA AND T.M. HYNNIEWTA. 2019. Dendrobium Orchids of Northeast India. Purbayon Publication, Guwahati, Assam, India. pp.1-406
2. HYNNIEWTA, T. M., S. K. KATAKI AND B. M. WADHWA. 2000. Orchids of Nagaland (P. K. Hajra & U. Chatterjee Ed.), Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta. pp. 1-306

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3. HYNNIEWTA, T.M. AND A.A. MAO. 1999. Pollution-cum-Depletion of Tribal's Ethnobotanical Knowledge Systems. In: S.K. Gupta et al. (eds.) Proc. Nat. Conf. Pollution, Man and Environment, Shillong, pp. 187-189

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19. CHHETRI, GEETAMANI AND T.M. HYNNEWTA. 2005. Note on the taxonomy of *Juncus sikkimensis* Hook. f. *Phytotaxonomy* 5: 131 – 133.
20. CHHETRI, GEETAMANI, S. K. BORTHAKUR AND TIKA PR. SHARMA. 2007. Extended distribution of *Juncus sikkimensis* Hook. f. in Arunachal Pradesh. Indian For. 133(8): 1141 – 1142.
21. CHHETRI, GEETAMANI, T.M. HYNNEWTA AND A.A. ANSARI. 2007. A new taxon of *Juncus* L. (Juncaceae) from Sikkim Himalaya. Indian J. Forest. 30 (4): 539 – 541.
22. CHHETRI, GEETAMANI, T.M. HYNNEWTA AND A.A. ANSARI. 2007. Two new additions to the Juncaceae of India. Indian J. Forest. 30 (3): 357 – 360.
23. CHHETRI, GEETAMANI, T.M. HYNNEWTA AND A.A. ANSARI. 2007d. Rare and Endangered species of *Juncus* L. (Juncaceae) in North-East Himalaya. *Pleione* 1 (2): 70 – 75.
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Projects submitted

8. BEGUM, S.S. AND T. M. HYNNEWTA. 2003. Assessment of Floristic Diversity in Orang National Park, Assam Submitted to the Director, Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata.
9. BEGUM, S.S. AND T. M. HYNNEWTA. 2005. Assessment of Floristic Diversity in Nameri National Park, Assam- Submitted to the Director, Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata.
10. CHHETRI GEETAMANI AND T.M. HYNNEWTA. 2008. Studies of Families JUNCACEAE & JUNCAGINACEAE in INDIA - submitted to Director, BSI.
11. T. M. HYNNEWTA. 2009. Flora of Meamung Wildlife Sanctuary, South Sikkim- submitted to the Director, BSI.

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