

Late Dr. A. Kathirevetpillai

An Appreciation

It is with a deep sense of sorrow that we announce the demise of our colleague and friend Dr. A Kathirevetpillai, the Editor of the Tamil Number of the *Vidurava*, the Science Magazine of the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Kathirevetpillai began his professional career as an experimental officer in the Entomology Department of the Tea Research Institute, Talawakelle in 1963, and retired on 9th July 1997 after 35 years of dedicated service. In 1969, he rose to the rank of Research Officer in Plant Physiology in the Division of Plant Physiology / Plant Breeding and Propagation, and in January 1992 he was appointed Head of the Division of Agronomy, in which capacity he served until retirement. Significantly, from 1985, until retirement he also functioned as the joint editor of the official TRI publication.

Dr. Kathirevetpillai received his doctorate from the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Sri Lanka, Peradeniya in April 1977 for his thesis titled '*Studies on Vegetative Propagation and Early Growth of Tea (Camellia sinensis (L.) O. Kuntz*)'. He received special training in Plant Breeding in New Delhi in 1977, and in 1978, he followed a special 6-month training in Advanced Methodology in Growth Hormone Analysis at the University College of Wales in UK.

It was indeed a sad coincidence that his last contribution was to be an article titled '*Biotechnology for Improvement of the Tea Crop*' to the *Vidurava*, which he wrote less than 3 months before his demise. The Chairman and Members of the Editorial Sub-Committee (for *Vidurava*) of NSF join us in conveying to Mrs. Kathirevetpillai and members of his family our deepest sympathies on their sad loss.

M. Asoka. T. De Silva and Dr. Nalini C. Gnanapragasam



What have you learnt from the Vidurava November 2015 issue? Scan your own memory!

Light as a Carrier of Information

Questions

1. In the vast technical fields ranging from spacecraft technology to nanotechnology, information transmission plays a vital role.
2. It is not correct to state that the history of the use of light, or more scientifically 'optics', to transmit information from one place to another goes back to hundreds of years.
3. The main parts of an optical fibre cable are called the core and the cladding.
4. An important point is that, every light ray that is being launched into the fibre optic cable will undergo total internal reflection.
5. Optical fibres have a wider bandwidth available at optical frequencies.

Light and Light-based Technologies for Day to Day Life

Questions

1. Light plays two major roles as a supplier of energy and as a carrier of information.