



**MADHAV GADGIL**

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Madhav Gadgil was educated at Pune (63, B.Sc. ZBC), Bombay (65, M. Sc. Zoology) and Harvard (69, Ph.D. Biology) Universities. He was the first biology student at Harvard University to receive a Ph. D. degree for a thesis based on mathematical modeling. He won an IBM Fellowship of the Harvard Computing Center for this work; which was subsequently recognized as a Citation Classic. His scientific interests focus on ecology and evolutionary biology, conservation biology, human ecology, natural resource management and ecological history, and he has published over 225 scientific papers. Madhav Gadgil's scholarly work has involved extensive interdisciplinary explorations, and his co-authors include Romila Thapar (history), Ramachandra Guha (sociology), K.C. Malhotra (anthropology), Charles Perrings (economics), Manoharan (linguistics), Carl Folke (human ecology), Luca Cavalli-Sforza (human genetics), Vidyand Nanjundiah (theoretical biology), Anil Gore (biometrics) and K.M. Hegde (farmer), along with many ecologists, including the late Dr. Sálím Ali.

He has served as a Lecturer on Biology at Harvard University (1969-71), as a Visiting Professor of Human Biology at Stanford University (1991), and as a Distinguished Indo-American Lecturer at University of California at Berkeley (1995). From 1973 to 2004 he served on the faculty of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. He founded the Centre for Ecological Sciences at the Indian Institute of Science in 1983, which has developed strong traditions of working with researchers, teachers, and policy makers as well as NGO workers, farmers and other citizens throughout the country. This has led to innovative experiments of involving High School and College teachers and students in inventorying and monitoring of biodiversity. Madhav Gadgil has been largely responsible for introducing careful quantitative investigations in ecology and animal behaviour as well as viewing humans as an integral component of ecosystems to India.

In 1976 Madhav Gadgil was asked by the Karnataka Government to look at the management of the state's bamboo resources. His studies resulted in initiation of withdrawal of perverse subsidies to forest based industries in the country. He prepared the project document for and was involved with the establishment of the country's first biosphere reserve in Nilgiris in 1986. He worked on the committee that prepared the blueprint for the establishment of a Ministry of Environment by the Government of India. He was a member of the Science Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India from 1986-90. He served as Vice-president of the Scientific Advisory Body to the Convention on Biological Diversity (1994-96). He served as the Chair of the Science and Technology Advisory Panel of Global Environment Facility from 1998-2002. He served on the Tiger Task Force constituted by the Prime Minister in 2005, and is currently a member of the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

He worked on the committee that drafted the Biological Diversity Act 2002, and has developed the methodology and database for People's Biodiversity Registers that has been recommended for country-wide adoption by the National Biodiversity Authority. He is currently helping the National Biodiversity Authority in working out modalities of inventorying of biodiversity at the level of local bodies such as Panchayats throughout the country. He was a member of the group that prepared the National Curriculum Framework 2005, and is currently chairing the Committee to revise the Environmental Education Curriculum at the School stage.

Madhav Gadgil has been always interested in sharing his scientific understanding and environmental concerns with the broader public. Beginning at the age of 15, he has written some 40 popular articles in Marathi, and over 250 in English. His first book, "This Fissured Land: an Ecological History of India" has been translated in Malayalam and Marathi, his second book "Ecology and Equity" in Hindi, Malayalam and Kannada, his third book, "Nurturing Biodiversity: An Indian Agenda" in Gujarathi. His other books include: "Diversity: The cornerstone of life", "Ecological Journeys", "Ecology is for the People: A Methodology Manual for People's Biodiversity Registers" and "Nisarganiyojan Lokasahabhagane" in Marathi. From 1999 through 2004 he contributed a fortnightly natural history column, beginning with a poem, for "Hindu", currently he writes a monthly column in the Marathi daily, "Sakal".

He has been elected to all the Science Academies of India, the Third World Academy of Sciences and the U.S. National Academy of Science. He is an Honorary Member of the British Ecological Society and the Ecological Society of America. Madhav Gadgil was awarded the National Environment Fellowship, and the Pew Scholars Award in Environment and Development. He is a recipient of Shantiswarup Bhatnagar and Vikram Sarabhai and H K Firodia Awards, Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar Gold Plaque, Volvo Environment Prize and Harvard University's GSAS Centennial Medal. Government of Karnataka conferred on him the Rajyotsava Award in 1983 and the President of India Padma Shri in 1981 and Padma Bhushan in 2006.

Madhav Gadgil was the holder of the Maharashtra State Junior(1957) and Pune University (1961) High Jump records and twice represented the University in All India Athletic Games; these outdoor interests are at the root of his life-long, vigorous pursuit of ecological field work. He brought to the notice of the scientific community new species of a tarantula spider and a torrent frog that have been named after him.