

PRESENTATION OF THE 2009 SHARDA CHANDRA GOLD MEDAL OF THE PALAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF INDIA TO MUKUND SHARMA

This medal was instituted in the year 2009 by Dr. Anil Chandra Life Fellow of the Palaeontological Society of India in memory of his mother, the late Smt. Sharda Chandra. The award shall be given to a person in recognition of his/her outstanding publication in the field of Palaeontology on Indian material during each calendar year. Executive Council of Palaeontological Society of India has selected Dr. Mukund Sharma of B.S.I.P. for this Gold Medal for the year 2009. During presentation of the award, Secretary, Palaeontological Society of India said, "

Prof. M.K. Misra, Vice-Chancellor, University of Lucknow, Mr. President, members of the Palaeontological Society of India (PSI) and guests, I am pleased to present to you Dr. Mukund Sharma, who is this year's recipient of the Society's Sharda Chandra Gold Medal in Palaeontology. I am very happy to present the citation to Mukund - for I view him as one of the enthusiastic young palaeontologists currently engaged in our profession. I also consider him as a diligent former student, now an esteemed colleague and a good friend too.

He is being awarded the Sharda Chandra Gold Medal in Palaeontology 2009 for his research publication entitled, "*On the affinity of Chuaria-Tawuia Complex : A multidisciplinary study*" published in the Journal Precambrian Research, vol. 173:123-136. The paper is co-authored by Sanjay Mishra, Suryendu Dutta, Santanu Banerjee and Yogmaya Shukla. In this study, biometric aspect and structural engineering tool have been used to examine a possible relationship within *Chuar*-*Tawuia* Complex and micro-FTIR analyses to understand the biological affinity of *Chuar circularis* Walcott, collected from the Mesoproterozoic Suket Shale of the Vindhyan Supergroup and the Neoproterozoic Halkal Shale of the Bhima Group of peninsular India. They have termed the new model the 'Hybrid Model'. This model discusses and demonstrates varied geometrical morphologies assumed by *Chuar* and *Tawuia*, and also shows the interrelationship of *Chuar-Tawuia* Complex.

The Sharda Chandra Gold Medal in Palaeontology is a fitting recognition to Mukund Sharma for his multidisciplinary, scholarly accomplishment that expands our knowledge on the *Chuar-Tawuia* Complex.

Dr. Mukund Sharma responded:

Thank you very much Prof. M.K. Misra, Vice-Chancellor, University of Lucknow, Prof. B.S. Tewari President, Prof. M.P. Singh Secretary, Palaeontological Society of India, the Advisory Committee on the award and the entire Palaeontological Society of India for this wonderful honour. It is with great humility that I accept the medal. Recognition from peers and colleagues in the field is deeply meaningful and encouraging.

Authorities of BSIP provided much needed opportunities and Dr. N.C. Mehrotra specially supported me to excel in my endeavours. Far from my field of specialization, I received tremendous help and constructive suggestions from my seniors. I will be failing in my duties if I do not mention the critical assistance, advice and support I received from Prof. S. Kumar and Dr. Purnima Srivastava from the University of Lucknow in my studies from time to time.

Lastly, I will be mean if I don't recall the unconditional support of my wife, Alka and my sons, Indraneel and Indrajeet, to pursue my other love - the palaeontology. Without their affection and patience, I would not have gone so long personally and professionally.

Before I conclude, I express my gratefulness to Dr. Anil Chandra, Fellow and Life Member of the PSI for his benevolent act of constituting such a Medal under the aegis of the Palaeontological Society of India motivating the next generation of palaeontologists.



Prof. M. K. Misra, Vice-chancellor, University of Lucknow presenting the 2009 Sharda Chandra Gold medal to Dr. Mukund Sharma.

Thank you again the Palaeontological Society of India for this honour.