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Obituary

That short, potential stir
That each can make but once,
That bustle so illustrious
'T is almost consequence,
Is the éclat of death.
Oh, thou unknown renown
That not a beggar would accept,
Had he the power to spurn!

(Emily Dickinson (1830-1886))



To a dedicated, passionate scientist
We miss your presence deeply
Sudan has lost a biodiversity legacy

Obituary



Dr. El Tigani Mohamed Hassan Allam was born in 5.8.1939. Following his interest in Ecology and Entomology he joined the Zoology Department at University of Khartoum where he was rewarded his B.Sc. (Honours) in 1963 followed by M.Sc. (Zoology) in 1965. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of London in 1970.

Dr. Allam joined the Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, University of Khartoum in 1963 as a teaching assistant and as a lecturer in the same Department in 1971.

Dr. Allam served the university community in various capacities, including Head Department of Zoology (1980-1983). He served as Director of the Sudan Natural History Museum (1976–1980). He was seconded to Faculty of Education, Um El Qurra University, Taif, Saudi Arabia from 1983 to 1999.

In 2000 he was reappointed in the Zoology Department, Faculty of Science, University of Khartoum as Associate Professor and Director of the Natural History Museum. He served as a member of the Faculty Board (2000-2007), member of the University Senate and examination officer for the Department of Zoology as well.

During his tenure, Dr. El Tigani taught courses in Entomology for third year Zoology students, Honours Part I students, Honours Part II, Higher Diploma students and M.Sc. Qualifying students. He taught Medical Entomology for M.Sc. students, Wildlife for Honours Part I students, Ecology: for third year and fourth year students, Principles of Systematics for fourth year students as well as Entomology at University of Um El Qurra, Saudi Arabia.

He taught Entomology for undergraduate students, University of Kordofan, and University of River Nile. He taught Entomology and Ecology for graduate students at the Institute of Environmental studies. Dr. El Tigani was an active member of the committee for Biology Curriculum Development of Omdurman Islamic University also.

An inspiring teacher and dedicated scientist, Dr. Allam was a renowned Entomologist with wide-ranging impact on fields including systematics, ecology, biodiversity and conservation. He designed and implemented laboratory course on Scientific Material preservation for researchers, TAs and technicians at State Universities since 2002.

A very gentle and caring person, a man of his word, working tirelessly for his students and postdoctoral scientists, Dr Allam dedicated his entire career to his students and young researchers. Dr. El Tigani Mohamed Hassan Allam will be greatly missed by his current and former students, colleagues and collaborators around the Sudan. His place as leader of, undergraduate and postgraduate students, field trips to Suakin, Dinder National Park and Sennar field stations will remain vacant.

The passing of Dr. El Tigani Mohamed Hassan Allam in 5. 6. 2015 will leave a deep mark on our scientific community, his colleagues and family. An avid and talented photographer, Dr. Allam recorded his passion for nature for us all to share.