

Biosketch

Dr. Santosh Kumar is a senior scientist at the Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata. His research mainly focuses on the taxonomy and ecology of ciliated protists. He obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Delhi, where he studied the diversity of ciliates from selected biotopes in India and the effects of heavy metals on certain ciliates, especially the recombinant cell lines of *Tetrahymena thermophila*. Additionally, he explored the community structure of ciliates from extreme habitats and their adaptation to high sulfur tolerance, photosensitivity, feeding behavior, and cytotoxic compounds. He was part of the Soil Mapping project in Italy, where he studied ciliated protozoa as bio-indicators of soil quality in agricultural fields under different farming practices. He also participated in the Korean Research Fellowship program, where he investigated ciliated protists as bio-indicators of water quality in industrial polluted sites and extreme habitats. His current research focuses on studying the diversity of ciliates and gastrotrichs from Protected areas (National parks and Sanctuaries) as well as Ramsar wetlands of India; the diversity of marine ciliates associated with healthy and diseased corals; developing technology for reducing bacterial contamination in rivers, ponds, and drains; and studying faunal diversity in the Ramsar Wetlands of India. Dr. Kumar has described over 20 novel ciliates from India, Australia, Jamaica, South Korea, and Italy, using standard methods such as morphology and molecular phylogeny employing ribosomal and mitochondrial genes. He has published numerous articles in reputable journals, holds a patent, and has contributed to over 25 presentations in national and international conferences, symposia, and workshops.