

Obituary



In Loving Memory of Dr. Muhammad Sharif Khan (1939-2023)

With an immense sense of sorrow and sadness, we pen down this obituary of Dr. Muhammad Sharif Khan, who was the beacon of knowledge for the herpetologists and wildlife lovers in general. Dr. Khan breathed his last on 8th September 2023. He dedicated his entire life in understanding the difficult and complex aspects of taxonomy and natural history of the most challenging vertebrate groups- amphibians and reptiles.

He was born in 1939. He completed his graduation in 1960 and MSc in 1963 from University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan. He soon started his career as Lecturer in Zoology at Talimul-Islam College, Rabwah. He obtained his doctorate in 1996. His academic and research career spanned over 40 years. Throughout his illustrious career, Dr. Khan conducted extensive fieldwork across Pakistan, surveyed remote and challenging terrains to document and study the behavior, ecology, and taxonomy of various reptile and amphibian species. His meticulous research, often conducted in collaboration

with international experts, resulted in over 250 research articles, a dozen books and over three dozen new species and records of amphibians and reptiles from Pakistan. This altogether solidified Pakistan's position on the global herpetological map.

He was the most celebrated herpetologist of Pakistan. He started working on herpetology at a time when virtually not much scientific data and expertise existed in this field in the country. He was adored and idealized for his humble nature amongst his peers, students, and scientific community. He guided many students and researchers and provided them with literature difficult to find online. Herpetology of Pakistan will always miss his absence.

Dr. Muhammad Rais