

CITATION OF PROFESSOR ANYA O. ANYA

Professor ANYA OKO ANYA, a Chartered biologist, Fellow and past Vice President of the Nigerian Academy of Science, Fellow of the Institute of Biology of the United Kingdom, Fellow of the Linnaean Society of London, Fellow of the Cambridge Philosophical Society and Former president, Union of African Biologists.

2. Born on 3rd January, 1937 at Abiriba, Imo State of Nigeria young Anya was educated at "Hope Waddell Training Institute, Calabar; University College, Ibadan; and the University of Cambridge (St. John's College), England, where he obtained the Doctor of Philosophy degree, working at the World famous Mol leno Institute of Biology and Parasitology.

3. Professor Anya's distinctive contribution is in the field of parapsychology. His research for many years has relentlessly tackled the problems of parasitism and parasitoses in the tropical environment of Nigeria. Through personal and group researches, Professor Anya sought to establish vital benchmarks in parasite biology and control, parasite ecology and epidemiology and parasite physiology and biochemistry.

4. One of the most outstanding discoveries of Professor Anya related to the nematode. In 1964, whilst still in Britain, he established for the first time that the nematode cuticle is a modified collagen. He also published a number of highly rated papers on the hatching, development and physiology of nematode eggs, some of these papers are still the major sources of information in this area of nematode physiology. This discovery paved the way for new approaches to the problem of the nematode Control which is critical for agriculture and the production Of many succulent crops in the tropical environment.

5. In 1973, at his laboratory in Nsukka, Professor Anya again identified for the first time in a nematode, the indolealkylamine 5-hydro-xytryptamin (5HT) ,indicating the presence of neurotransmitter molecules in nematodes This finding facilitated research into the neurophysiology of nematodes and opened a floodgate for Investigations into other neuro-transmitters in parasite helminths. This development which culminated in a better understanding of the immunological and chemotherapeutic procedures for combating parasites the harvest of such crops as tomatoes, bananas and other succulents. Today this paper on 5-HT is one of the most internationally quoted publications in parasite neurophysiology

6. As a result of his astonishing scientific discoveries, Professor Anya became the only African scientist to be honored with an invitation to review this field of specialization in the prestigious volume *Advances in Parasitology*. His review titled "Physiological Aspects of Reproduction in Nematodes" which appeared in the 1976 issue of this International Series is a classic and has remained for more than a decade afterwards the standard review of this subject. This review was followed closely by another invitation from the World Health Organization to participate in the joint publication of an international textbook of Medicine. Professor Anya's contribution on

"Nemathelminthes', was remarked upon as the best presentation ever encountered on the subject of establishing and extending the use of selective chemotherapy as a strategy for the control of geohelminths that affect human beings such as the hookworm and the guinea worm.

7. Professor Anya continues to provide strong leadership in scientific research in this country. He shows great commitment to the need by the scientific community to create enough awareness about the misguide of the disease inducing organisms in our environment so that policy makers may be encouraged to legislate on guidelines for their eventual eradication. For this reason, he has been very active in public affairs and has sought relentlessly to elevate the pursuit of science and technology' to a central focus of national self-reliant and development.

8. It is for all these achievements as a first rate researcher, a world renowned practical scientist and a committed patriot that I present to Mr. President, Professor Anya O. Anya as eminently worthy for the conferment of the Nigerian National Merit Award.