

PREFACE

India represents a blend of variety of terrain, forests, physiography, flora and faunal elements that has lured the intelligentsia since time immemorial. Ecology and reproduction have become the focus of attention of the scholars, students and scientists and efforts are underway for a better understanding of this higher complex interaction among various organisms and the environment. Animal ecology and reproductive strategies forms an important part of curriculum of almost all universities in India and the study of animal ecology is useful to understand the correlation between the breeding techniques employed by various animals during diverse environmental conditions.

The objective of this book is to collect, compile and disseminate information on the scientific aspects on the breeding ecology and reproductive strategies of diverse animals from the Indian sub-continent. The papers incorporated herein, represents only an extremely modest selection of several facts of the breeding ecology of the animals of this region and shall fill the gaps in the present knowledge of the subject existing today.

The book thoroughly covers all basic information on the subject of animal ecology and reproduction to make reader upto-date with the latest in this field where propagation of scientific information has not only been fast but enormous too in the past couple of decades. The book comprises two sections and twenty six original research articles dealing mainly with the present position of reproductive ecology and breeding strategies of animals. Wide-ranging topics, discussed by leading investigators reflects the versatility and breadth of the subject. Every effort has been made to make the book of prime utility for vigorous students taking higher courses in animal/environmental sciences and for sincere beginners in animal research. It is hoped that this book will fulfil a long standing need and serve as an important source of references for environmental scientists, students, scholars pursuing

research in reproductive biology, bio-ecology and reprotechnology in various universities and institutions, who have been looking forward to a book which could furnish basic information on the subject and could bring to them the great amount of in-depth information otherwise available in inaccessible and costly literature. Moreover, it shall provide the post graduate students a rich but balanced study material written in simple and concise language.

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