

Preface

The science of biology today is not the same science of fifty years or even ten years ago. Today's accelerated pace of research, aided by new techniques and instruments imparts to biology a rapidly changing character as discoveries go to pile up one on top of the other. Each new and important discovery is not just a mere addition to our knowledge, it also throws our establish beliefs into questions, and forces us certainly to reappraise and often to reshape the foundations upon which biology rests. An adequate presentation of the dynamic state of modern biology is, therefore, a formidable task, a challenge worthy of our best teachers, scientists and researchers.

The subject of animal ecology and reproduction is likely to dominate all areas of biology in early part of the new millennium. Animal ecology and reproduction, is one of the most important and interesting aspects of the study of animal sciences. Therefore, the need for periodic updating of books particularly meant for the students and researchers of ecology and reproduction, is more acute today than ever before.

The present knowledge of ecology and reproductive strategies in animal world has already assumed gigantic proportions and something, as discussed earlier, keeps on being added every day, which has encouraged us, in our endeavour to compile a series of book on these aspects. This volume of the series (Vol. III) comprises twenty one research articles, fourteen compiled under the section-animal ecology and seven under-animal reproduction section. The topics under each unit have been contributed by the leading experts in the field with exhaustive, relevant and up-to-date information. The book aims at providing the much needed information to teachers, researchers and others interested in environmental aspects and reproductive characteristics of various animal groups from diverse and varied ecological habitations.

The Editors express their gratefulness to the contributors who have shared valuable thoughts through their scholarly contributions and timely submission of manuscripts for this volume. Though meticulous care has been taken in editing the material, some mistakes might have crept in. We, therefore, close with the request to all who may use this book to be free to pass on to us their comments or suggestions, to enable us to improve our future volumes.

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