

Preface

Life having originated in water, has evolved itself into an enchanting world of rich and vastly diverse flora and fauna. The dependence of animals man included on the biological wealth of ecosystem can not be, therefore, over emphasized. Various anthropogenic activities have altered the physico-chemical and biological processes within ecosystem and failure to restore them would result in sharply increased costs later; in the extinction of the species or ecosystem types and in permanent ecological damage. As such, there is a dire need to depend and increase our understanding of the environment with regard to its physical, chemical and biological characteristics together with various interactions *viz.* animal ecology and reproductive strategies taking place in the diverse environments.

India is losing at an alarming rate its vast genetic heritage, the animal wealth of the country, even before they are properly studied and understood. The nature has gifted the biological diversity to be enjoyed and exploited gainfully for the progress of humanity and not to be destroyed and written off from the face of earth altogether. We must, therefore, understand that our own survival depends on their existence and not on their extinction. For the economic and

technological development of the country, it is necessary that we should have an adequate knowledge of our natural resources and this knowledge is necessary so that our future developmental programmes should not be at the cost of our faunal wealth.

Animal's reproductive biology together with the ecology, as a discipline of study and research has, for the last quarter century or so emerged as an important discourse in many educational institutions and research is going on in many universities, colleges and laboratories. Many books on this subject are being published from various quarters which unfold different aspects of the said discipline. But in most cases, animal ecology v/s reproduction did not get due attention. It is with the purpose of focusing our attention on those areas where some deficiency or lacuna exists and there is still a need and scope for further work or expertise developed, that we have utilized our own experience in this series which is indeed a unique feature. We are confident that this volume in concept and contents, shall satisfy the needs of the students, researchers, environmentalists, planners and policy makers who are interested in this discipline.

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