

PREFACE

CHORDATE CLASSIFICATION AND TYPE STUDY

After the stupendous success of the first volume of our joint venture '**Introduction to General Zoology**', we had taken up the onus upon ourselves to make Volume II more informative with a wide array of topics, vivid descriptions and much more presentability. Keeping tag with the above, the work (Volume II) has become copious and time consuming. This has led to the delayed birth of our second progeny, for which at this juncture we seek pardon from our learned readers and well-wishers.

Volume II embodies chordates, comparative anatomy, taxonomy and systematics, ecology, toxicology, wildlife, ethology, parasitology, immunology, histology, endocrinology, physiology, biochemistry, molecular biology and biotechnology, all crammed into nine chapters. Obviously, such diverse and wide range of topics, and to do justice to the recent developments in these subjects and also to quench the thirst of more information of our learned readers, our work has become voluminous. However, we still feel that we have not reached the zenith which we craved for.

Although Volume II consists of more topics yet the purpose and approach have remained similar to that of Volume I. The text is written for the undergraduates covering the syllabi of nearly all Indian universities. We have tried to keep the language plain as possible for clarity. Lucidity in writing and creating interest in the mind of our readers have been our major goals of writing this textbook.

We welcome all practical suggestions and positive criticisms from our learned readers — both interested students and erudite teachers. Kindly send your queries, suggestions and positive criticisms directly to any of us via e-mail (korakchaki@rediffmail.com; gk_ccz@rediffmail.com; drsupriti@hotmail.com) or write to us at the publisher's address. We will try to incorporate all such progressive ideas in future editions.

Directly or indirectly many persons have been helpful to us with this book, with a few incisive words or by a long, helpful association. Without naming them we would like to thank them all for their heartfelt cooperation and valuable critical suggestions. We are also indebted to all at New Central Book Agency (P) Ltd, particularly those persons listed on the copyright page. Our sincere thanks primarily rests on Sri Amitabha Sen, Director of New Central Book Agency (P) Ltd, for his sincere efforts to cut short the usual delay in publication of this volume.

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Korak Kanti Chaki
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Fig. 1.1 • Diagram representing proportionate number of species among different groups