

Preface

Importance of the study of animal behaviour was not realized earlier because the ideas, concepts and revelations related to it were not adequately presented and documented. However, with the advancement in our modern analytical concepts and experimentations, this field of study has made considerable progress during the last two decades. There is hardly any denial that this branch of biological science is going to translate many scientific fictions and fantasies into reality by unravelling many mysteries so far unexplored and is likely to render correlative benefits to humanity in terms of health, knowledge and possibly comfort.

The book covers almost all the important aspects of animal behaviour like innate and learning behaviour, social behaviour, courtship and mating of animals, migration, parental care, behavioural genetics, biological clock, etc. Besides, the book also includes the recently emerging offshoots dealing with several behavioural intricacies, such as neuro-endocrine regulation of behaviour, pheromones, behavioural ecology and toxicology, nervous and hormonal regulation of animal behaviour, adaptational behaviour (coloration and mimicry), wildlife and human behaviour.

The book attempts to provide an overall basic information and practical applications on animal behaviour to undergraduate and postgraduate students of universities in India that would help in understanding the principles of animal behaviour and their implications.

I wish that common people should also read this book to understand the enigmatic phenomena of the animal world and their relationships with them in order to develop the concept of co-existence. The text has been sufficiently supplemented with figures, charts, diagrams and tables to facilitate understanding by the students. The book has been written in simple style and easy-to-understand language. Sample questions—objective and subjective—have been provided at the end of each chapter, which will definitely help the students to assess their understanding.

I sincerely thank my colleagues, students and publishers for their help extended during the preparation of this book. Illustrations and ideas, not of my own, are gratefully acknowledged. I also acknowledge the deep affection of my family members as also their co-operation and support rendered during the writing of the book.

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