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A Study of Water Monitor Lizard (Varanus salvator) in Rural Habitat of Southern Part of West Bengal, India

Arijit Chatterjee

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Silanjan Bhattacharyya

Behaviour, Ecology and Evolution Lab, Department of Zoology West Bengal State University, Barasat

Abstract

Contrary to popular belief, rural ecosystems have been reported to harbor a rich spectrum of wildlife. Water Monitor Lizard (*Varanus salvator*) a Schedule I species (Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972) are commonly found in villages of West Bengal (especially in Lower-Gangetic Flood Plain and Coastal-estuarine area) but its actual population size and distribution was not properly known. Hence this study was conducted in few selected villages of these regions to estimate its population size and to understand how they co-exist within densely populated human settlements. Exclusive time-space count method was adopted to estimate the density of the animal. Result shows its density ranges from 77.78 to 111.54 individuals/km² in different village areas containing healthy amount of their potential habitats and it acts as an effective bio-

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Wild Fauna Consumed by The Forest Fringe Village Communities of South Western Parts of West Bengal

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Behaviour, Ecology and Evolution (BEE) Lab, Department of Zoology, West Bengal State University

Arijit Chatterjee

Department of Environmental Science, Asutosh College

Abstract

Wild fauna resources found in local ecosystems are exploited as a source of protein by ecosystem people all over the world. This two year study documents not only the richness of wild fauna species diversity consumed by the forest fringe families but the amount of biomass collected of those species. Daily surveys were conducted at households selected randomly from the forest - fringe villages of south western parts of West Bengal. 5.3% of faunal biomass of total food biomass for self consumption comes from 56 species of animals hunted including wild mammals, birds, reptiles, frogs, freshwater fishes, mollusks and invertebrates. The results depict that among the forest fringe villagers, the tribal families are more dependent on the wild fauna than their non tribal neighbours. Thus the high

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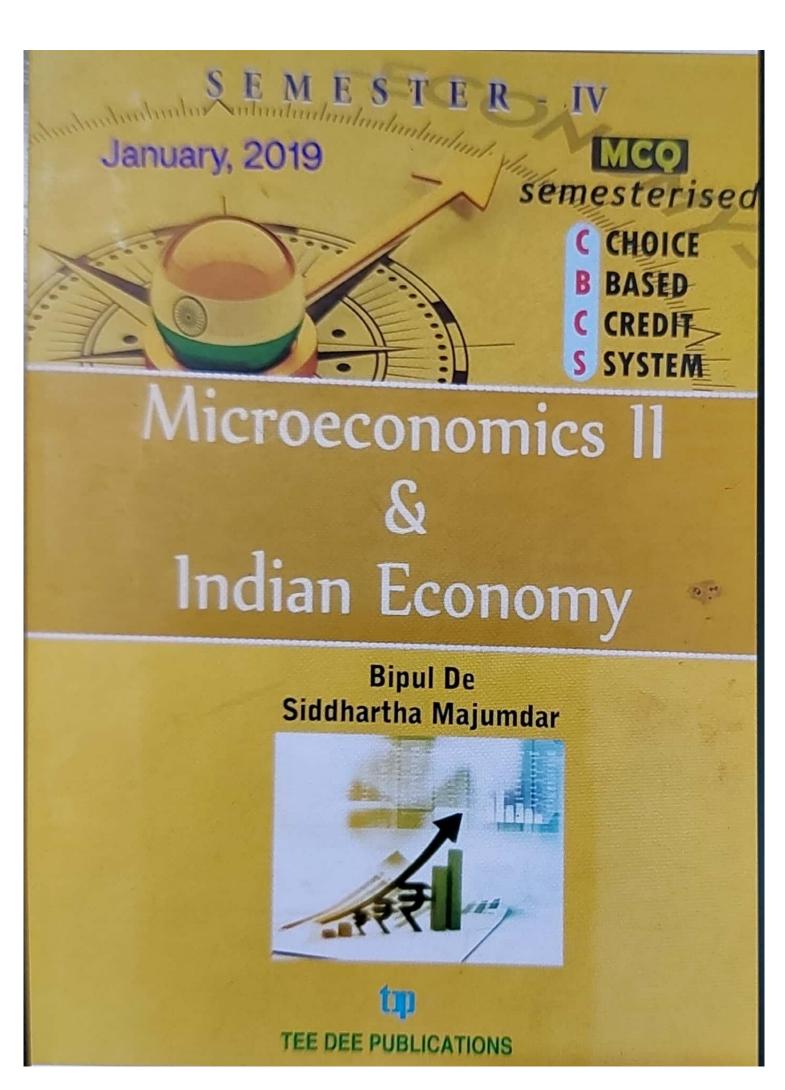
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Natural Disaster of West Bengal and its Management : An Overview Moumit Roy Goswami

Abstract

West Bengal is a State in eastern Part of India between N 21°30' & 27° 30' and E 85°30' & 89°45'. It is susceptible to natural calamities like flood, cyclone, hail storm, thunder squall, drought, landslide, erosion and occasionally to earthquakes because of its geo-morphological, climatic and seismic conditions. Floods and Cyclonic storms are most common among the natural disasters and frequently occur almost every year in different parts of the State leading to huge loss of life and property. Approximately 55.8% of the region in West Bengal susceptible to floods and it has faced numerous large floods in the past 20 years. West Bengal has been one of the most cyclone-affected territories of the country. The state has faced many major cyclones like Severe Cyclonic Storm BOB 04 in 2002 and Aila in 2009 in the recent past which caused massive destruction. Notably West Bengal has two Cyclone seasons i.e premonsoon and post-monsoon cyclone during April-May and Nov-Dec, respectively. Pre-monsoon cyclone, which causes wide spread hailstorm and it is traditionally called in the state as Kalbaishaki. With respect to Cyclones, the districts of West Medinipur, East Medinipur, South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly, part of Nadia, Burdwan and Bankura falls under very high damage risk zone (V=50m/s); whereas a major part of Nadia, Burdwan, Bankura, Murshidabad, Malda, Uttar and Dakshin Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, Darjeeling, part of Purulia faces high damage risk zone (V=47m/s) and Major portion of Purulia falls under moderate damage risk zone (V=29m/s) with respect to cyclone. The landslide hazard in West Bengal has been observed mostly in the hilly terrains of Darjeeling District. However, incidents of landslide have also been reported to have occurred on the banks of Hooghly River. The main reason behind landslides in hilly terrains is urbanization,



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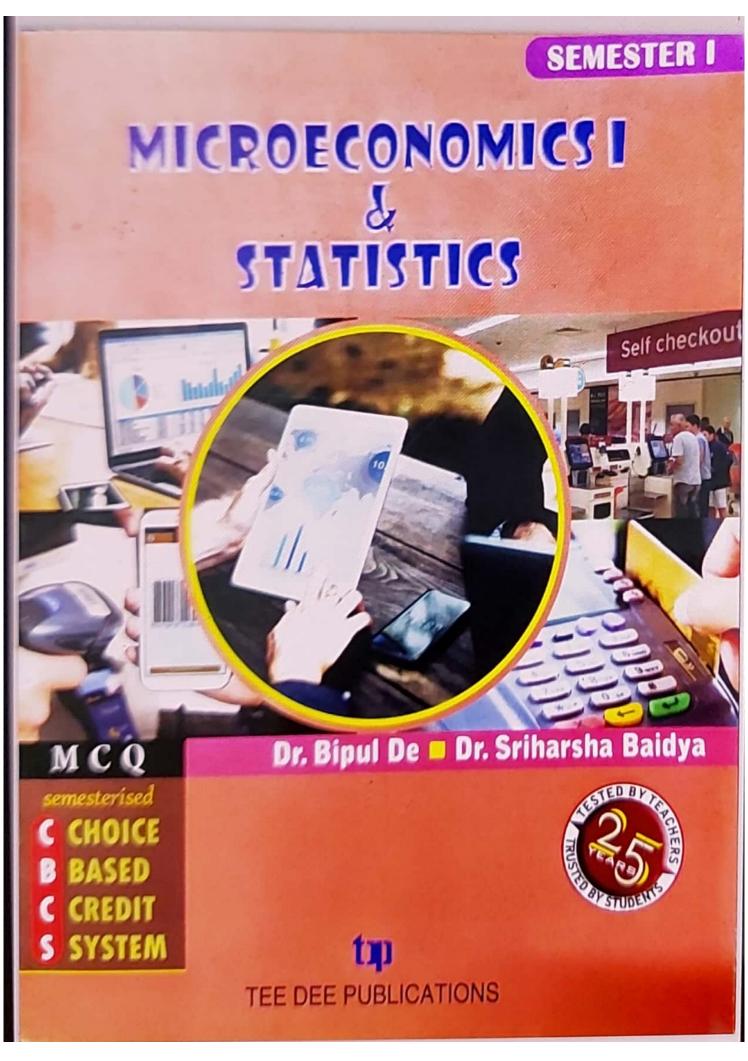
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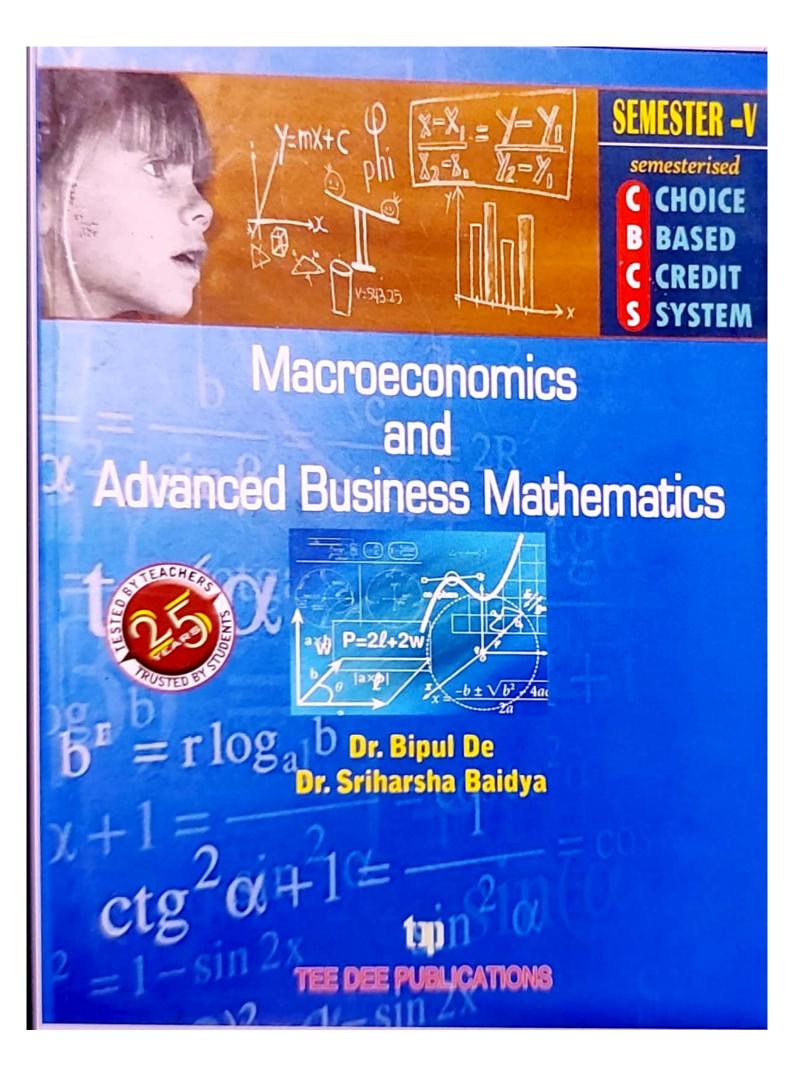
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Phytoremediation of Methotrexate Induced Genotoxicity in Heteropneustes Fossilis Using Extracts of Centella Asiatica

Manjistha Deb1, Urbee Banerjee1, Debosmita Roy2 and Pinakiranjan Chakrabarti1

> [1 Department of Zoology, Vijaygarh Jyotish Ray College]

[2 Department of Zoology, Netaji Nagar College for Women]

Abstract

The extracts of Centella asiatica(commonly known as Mandukaparni), are widely used in ethnobotanics. This study has first taken the initiative of assessing their chemo-protective properties against Methotrexate (MTX) insult. Heteropneustes fossilis was chosen as the model for this experiment and they were divided into three groups. Group 1 was kept as the control; Group 2 was given sub-lethal concentrations of MTX; Group 3 was administered Centella asiatica extract simultaneously with MTX. The extent of genotoxicity was monitored by micronucleus assay. This setup enabled us to clarify whether the extract had any remedial effect

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8 CHAPTER

Taxonomic Studies of The Genus Rhynchotechum of Indian Part of Eastern Himalaya

Susmita Roy1*, T.K. Paul 2 & Sobhan Kr. Mukherjee3

¹Netaji Nagar College for Women, Regent Estate, Kolkata 700 092, India. Email: susmitanncw@rediffmail.com ² Scientist B, Botanical Survey of India, Central National herbarium, Howrah-711 103, India. Email: paul_tk@rediffmail.com ³ Department of Botany, University of Kalyani,

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Abstract

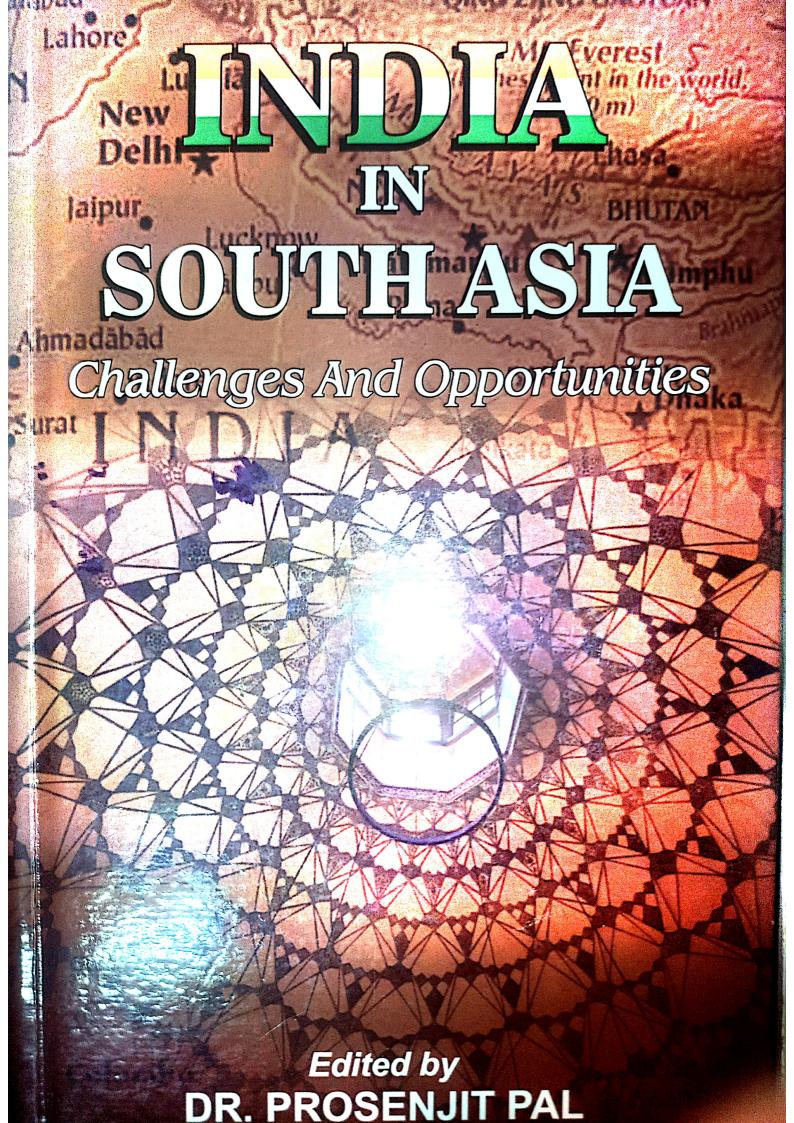
Rhynchotechum Blume is a very interesting genus of the family Gesneriaceae differing from other genera having clustered cymose inflorescence and white berry fruit. Burtt and Wiehler (1995) placed Rhynchotechum in the tribe Cyrtandreae under the subfamily Cyrtandroideae. Six species viz., R. calycinum, R. ellipticum, R. hookeri, R. vestitum, R. alternifolium and R. gracile under the genus have been recorded from Indian part of Eastern Himalaya. Two species R. calycinum and R. ellipticum have ethnobotanical importance. The genus has been studied in details on the basis of herbarium specimens available in different herbaria (CAL, ASSAM, ARUN and Lloyd Botanic Garden Herbaria) and the relevant literature pertaining to Eastern Himalaya. Distribution map and phonological calendar of the studied species have been provided to show their diversity.

Key words: Rhynchotechum, Cyrtandreae, Gesneriaceae, Eastern Himalayas, India.

Introduction

Gesneriaceae, one of the 23 families of the order Lamiales (Weber, 2004), consists of 139 genera with 2,900 species distributed in the tropical to temperate climate of the world (Mabberley, 2008). The Angiosperm Phylogeny Group

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India in South Asia Challenges and Oportunities

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Chapter

5

The Impact of Terrorism on Globalisation and the Question of Social Security in India.

Nilimpa Ghosh

Introduction

Globalization is a multi-dimensional phenomena which has opened up a hornet's nest in the realm of security. With the inception of globalization the question of social security of the states have emerged as a grave concern for the states as terrorism has acquired a new face. The world seems to stand at the cross roads as global terrorism has started giving vent to the already hidden notion of a broader case of social deprivation, political and economic exploitation suffered by the less developed countries. To be more focused, global terrorism has united the Muslim minorities living in the various Third World countries, who have suffered at the hands of the rich, developed, industrialized, mostly western countries and the mostly non-Islamic population inhabiting them. The increasingly newer and changing tactics and methodologies of global terrorist networks- the New Terrorism with "Jihad" as their ideological rationale, seems to be an exercise of their right to self- determination, and an attempt to break the shackles of exploitation spearheaded by the USA.1

The echoes of "jihad" have also been experienced in India in the form of various terrorist attacks in various parts of the country