

SYMPOSIUM ON ECOLOGY OF ANIMAL POPULATIONS

A National Symposium on "Ecology of Animal Population" was organised by the Zoological Survey of India in collaboration with the University Grants Commission from 26th to 28th October, 1978 at the Ashutosh Centenary Hall, Indian Museum, Calcutta. Over 200 scientists from the Universities, National Research Organizations and the Survey participated in this Symposium, under the General Presidentship of Dr. Salim Ali, the renowned Ornithologist. Dr. D. Shankarnarayanan, Additional Secretary, University Grants Commission, himself a Zoologist, inaugurated the Symposium and Dr. Ishwar Prakash, the noted rodent Ecologist from the C.A.Z.R.I., Jodhpur, gave the Key note address.

Welcoming the distinguished guests the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Dr. T. N. Ananthkrishnan indicated that the Zoological Survey of India had ventured to hold such a National Symposium for the first time. The spontaneous response received in the form of large number of research papers was gratifying. Inaugurating the Symposium, Dr. Shankarnarayanan traced the trend of studies on the ecology of animal populations from 1957 upto recent years and gave a detailed account of investigations conducted on birds, rodents, monkeys and other mammals, and dealt with various aspects. In his Key note address on "Population Ecology of Indian Desert Rodents", Dr. Ishwar Prakash, Ecologist, Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur, dealt with the mammalian species reported from Thar Desert and their relative percentage of population, their distribution and abundance influenced by vegetation communities, population fluctuations in various seasons, the feeding habits among desert rodents, and other connected ecological factors.

Dr. Salim Ali, in his presidential address, dwelt on ecology as a discipline which is receiving public interest of late and how biologists, environmentalists and

conservationists are concerned with the growing disturbance to natural ecosystems.

The Symposium comprised three major Sections : Marine, Freshwater and Terrestrial ecosystems. The last section was subdivided into three major sessions : General, Entomology and Wild Life.

Fourteen papers were presented under the Marine ecosystem with Dr. R. Natarajan, Porto Novo, as the Chairman. The inter-tidal zonation and the impact of their environment on the different groups of animals was discussed. Seventeen papers were read under the Freshwater ecosystem section which was presided by Prof. C. L. Mahajan of Jaipur. Limnological aspects of ponds and lakes, plankton and benthos of natural lakes, and hydrobiological features of running waters were discussed. The population structure and energy flow through coexisting species was another aspect presented at this session. Section III of Terrestrial Ecosystem with Dr. D. N. Raychoudhury, Calcutta, in the Chair had eight papers, dealing with population fluctuation, density and regulation of animal populations. The entomology session was divided into two sections with Drs. A. P. Kapur and M. L. Roonwal, as Chairmen. Forty papers were read and the topics ranged from ecological consideration in insect pest outbreak to their diverse biological aspects, behaviour, damage and control. The Wild Life session under the Chairmanship of Sri Cyril Daniel, Bombay, attracted considerable attention. The F.A.O. expert on Crocodile, Dr. H. R. Bustard took part in the discussion.

Four popular evening Lectures were delivered by Dr. M. S. Mani, Agra, Dr. P. K. Rajagopalan, Pondicherry, Dr. V. P. Sharma, New Delhi and M. K. Chandrashekar, Madurai. In all, eighty-five research contributions on different ecosystems and on diverse groups of animals were presented, which led to lively discussions.

SYMPOSIUM ON FOOD PROTEINS

A three day Symposium of Food Proteins is being organised by Loyola College (an autonomous Institution in the University of Madras) during 17th to 19th March 1979. Those interested in the Symposium and

in the exhibition are requested to contact the convener. Dr. A. Srinivasan, Professor of Chemistry, Loyola College, Madras 600 034.
