

PREFACE

Shivaji University, Kolhapur has offered M.Phil. degree course to various affiliated colleges. Yashwantrao Chavan Institute of Science, Satara is one of them. In accordance, in the Zoology Department a research work is undertaken since last two to three years. In past few years mucosubstances have been studied from the alimentary tract of laboratory animals such as rats, rabbits, guinea pigs etc. but less attention has been paid to the vertebrates belonging to lower classes. Varute and Nalavade (1973) have also rightly brought to the notice, that there exists scanty literature on histology and nature of mucosubstances in the alimentary tract of reptiles. This stimulated us to undertake the present investigation "Histochemical studies on mucosubstances in the alimentary tract of Chamaeleon zeylanicus laureti."

The dissertation is presented in five chapters. The first chapter is devoted to the nomenclature of complex carbohydrates, review of the existing literature and reasons for undertaking the present work. The second chapter deals with the material and methods employed in the present investigation. The histological and histochemical observations on oesophagus, stomach (cardiac and pyloric) and intestine (duodenum, small intestine and large intestine) are described in chapters three to five together with brief discussion. The last chapter is followed by summary and concluding remarks. The dissertation ends with bibliography of the literature cited in the various chapters.