

P R E F A C E

The metabolic processes of submammalian vertebrates are very complex and reproduction is one of them. In reptiles especially the reproductive processes are very complex showing oviparity, ovoviviparity and viviparity. The female reproductive tract plays a major role in reproduction; and the mucopolysaccharides (complexes of carbohydrates and proteins) are the basic metabolites involved in animal metabolism. The study of these metabolites and their distribution in the reproductive tract during different breeding seasons may help in the understanding of reproductive processes. The work included in the present dissertation concerns with the mucopolysaccharides and their distribution in the ovaries and oviducts during seasonal breeding activities; of Hemidactylus flaviviridis.

The present research project is divided into five chapters. The first chapter provides a brief review of the literature on reptilian ovaries and oviducts and classification of mucopolysaccharides used in histochemistry. Chapter II deals with the brief survey of the different methods used for the demonstration of mucopolysaccharides and material used for the study. Chapter III covers the detailed observations on ovaries. Chapter IV describes the observations on mucopolysaccharides from oviducts, and Chapter V gives brief concluding remarks, and the project ends with the bibliography cited in various chapters.