

An overview

Reproductive Biology is one of the areas of the natural sciences that has been increasingly engaging the attention of Indian scientists during the last two to three decades. This is not surprising because of the immediate national relevance this subject has in the field of regulating human fertility and increasing the population of farm and aquatic animals of economic importance.

A number of laboratories specializing in the discipline of Reproductive Biology have been set up in several institutions and universities during the last two decades and a wide variety of researches have been undertaken in these laboratories.

This Special Issue of the Journal of Biosciences has attempted to bring together a representative collection of papers from different laboratories in order to give a perspective of the kinds of research currently going on in the country. Some of these papers are original articles while some are reviews of work carried out in these laboratories during the last few years.

The papers in this Special Issue can be divided into 3 categories. Papers included in the first category are those that address themselves to certain basic issues aimed at understanding the biological processes of reproduction. Examples of this category could be seen in the articles written by Murthy and Friesen, Raju and Reddy and Vijayan. Articles written by Moudgal *et al.*, Rao, Kharbanda *et al.*, Chinoy, Das, Chandana Das, Rajalakshmi, Chakrabarty *et al.* and Bandivdekar *et al.*, are directed to certain emerging areas which are relevant to the development of new modalities for the regulation of fertility. The third category of articles written by Roy and Das, Bamezai *et al.*, Prasad, Shahani and Malathi and Adiga spell out new emerging technologies which are in a stage of enquiry leading to application in the foreseeable future.

It must be pointed out that this collection of articles does not by any means indicate the entire gamut of researches being carried out in Reproductive Biology in the country; this is only a selection of a few topics which serve to illustrate the kind of work being carried out by Indian scientists.

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