

different aspects of the region written by specialists in their respective fields. Though most of the data have been already published in different journals, a few have been obviously written specially for this volume to cover the geological, geophysical, geomorphic, faunal (turtles), floral (mangrove swamps) and resources (water, soil, hydrocarbon etc). The sixteen chapters of the book are divided broadly under the following heads - Geology (1-6, 70p), Resources (7-13, 68p) and Biodiversity (14-16, 30p). Coloured and black and white figures and photographs suitably illustrate the text.

In an edited volume of this kind, there are bound to be differences in the style of writing and presentation by different authors. There are a number of instances of poor construction in language, grammatical and typographical errors. A few inferences made in the text may be controversial, but this is not uncommon in published literature. In spite of these few shortcomings, this publication is recommended to those interested in Indian deltas.

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**AN INTRODUCTION TO THE MAMMALIAN FAUNA OF THE SIWALIK SYSTEM: BIODIVERSITY OF THE SIWALIK FAUNA** by K.N. Prasad, Prasad Publications, Chennai, 2001, 295p. Price: Rs. 300/- (\$30) for paperback; Rs.400 (\$40) for hard bound

In consideration of the fact that there are so few updates on Indian Siwalik faunas, the present book by K.N. Prasad is a notable event. The author in his own right has vast experience in investigating Siwalik mammalian assemblages, – specifically Siwalik primates, and is one of the most qualified scientists of the country to undertake this responsibility. The book is aimed to bring together “all relevant information on Siwalik in one publication”, which in itself is a stupendous task. The problems in achieving this goal are daunting for anyone, concepts of phylogenetic lineages have radically changed over the last five decades; the relationships of several taxa described on the basis of isolated and fragmentary material to the other, better described material from India and Pakistan, is unclear; in addition there are continuing problems in synonymy. Given these constraints, Prasad has done a commendable job in

putting together a good database for research scientist to enable him to get current overview of the Siwalik fauna. It is obvious that his body of work has entailed considerable dedication and perseverance on Prasad’s part.

The author has made an effort to profusely illustrate the taxa described, but several figures are not decipherable, for example Fig.6 *Presbytis*. In general, the ink drawings need to be improved, some of these are actually either printed sideways (Fig.10, *Sivapithecus*, page 60) and even upside down (Fig.23 *Hyaena striata*, page 109). By and large, references are comprehensive and a good source of information. In the end, I feel that the book will serve as an important starting point for the research scientists and will be greatly used.

.ASHOK SAHNI

**ERRATA**

In NOTES item on: "Is Son-Narmada North Fault Getting Active" by V.K. Khanna and A.P. Agarwal (JGSI, v.57, p.548, June 2001), line 1 para 2 should read as "Around Jabalpur, the activities due to SNNF have been very limited".