

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	I
CONTENTS	III
LIST OF TABLES	VIII
LIST OF FIGURES	X
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	XIII
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER 2 STUDY AREA	10
2.1. LOCATION	10
2.2. HISTORY	10
2.3. LAND-USE	11
2.4. INTENSIVE STUDY AREA	11
2.5. ABIOTIC FACTORS	11
2.5.1. Climate	11
2.5.2. Seasons	11
2.5.3. Rainfall	11
2.5.4. Temperature	11
2.5.5. Humidity	11
CHAPTER 3 MATERIALS AND METHODS	16
3.1. AMPHIBIAN COMMUNITY STRUCTURE	16
3.1.1. Field studies	16
3.1.2. Indices	16
3.2. LARVAL STUDY	18
3.2.1. Sampling	18
3.2.2. Morphometric Studies	19
3.2.3. Scanning Electron Microscopic Analysis	19

CONTENTS

3.2.4. Gut Content Analysis	20
3.2.5. Controlled Experiments	20
3.3. PHYSICOCHEMICAL ANALYSIS	20
3.3.1. Temperature	21
3.3.2. pH	21
3.3.3. Dissolved Oxygen	21
3.3.4. Total solids	22
3.3.5. Chemical oxygen demand	22
3.3.6. Phosphate-phosphorous	23
3.3.7. Nitrate-Nitrogen	24
3.4. METHOD FOR HEAVY METAL ANALYSIS	25
3.4.1. Principle	25
3.4.2. Test Organisms	25
3.4.3. Method of tissue digestion	25
3.4.4. Heavy metal analysis for Water samples	26
3.4.5. Expression of Results	26
3.5. METHOD FOR DIAGNOSING CHYTRIDOMYCOSIS	26
3.5.1. Collection of specimen	26
3.5.2. Principle of histology	27
3.5.3. Procedure for histology	27
3.5.4. Methods Used to Confirm the Disease	28
3.5.4. Confirmation of the Results	28
CHAPTER 4 QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE COMMUNITY STRUCTURE OF AMPHIBIAN ASSEMBLAGES IN VADODARA DISTRICT, GUJARAT	29
4.1. INTRODUCTION	29
4.2. INTENSIVE STUDY SITES	31

CONTENTS

4.3. MATERIALS AND METHODS	31
4.4. RESULTS	32
4.4.1. Species richness	32
4.4.2. Diversity and evenness	33
4.4.3. Analysis of ecological distribution	33
4.4.4. Coefficient of communities	34
4.4.5. Niche breadth	34
4.4.6. Niche overlap	35
4.5. DISCUSSION	35
CHAPTER 5 BIOLOGY OF <i>BUFO STOMATICUS</i> AND <i>MICROHYLA ORNATA</i> IN ITS NATURAL HABITAT IN VADODARA DISTRICT	63
5.1. INTRODUCTION	63
5.2. INTENSIVE STUDY SITES	66
5.3. METHODOLOGY	66
5.3.1. Sampling	66
5.3.2. Morphometric studies	67
5.3.3. SEM analysis	67
5.3.4. Gut content analysis	67
5.3.5. Physicochemical analysis	67
5.3.6. Controlled experiments	68
5.3.7. Statistical Analysis	68
5.4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	68
5.4.1. Breeding period	68
5.4.2. Breeding characteristics	69
5.4.3. Call	69
5.4.4. Reproductive mode	70
5.4.5. Courtship and Amplexus	70

CONTENTS

5.4.6. Spawn	70
5.4.7. Habitat utilization by tadpoles	71
5.4.8. Tadpole Aggregation and density	72
5.4.9. Morphometry and description of tadpoles of <i>B. stomaticus</i>	72
5.4.10. Morphometry and description of tadpoles of <i>M. ornata</i>	74
5.4.11. Ecological considerations	75
5.4.12. Vegetation	78
5.4.13. Food	78
5.4.14. Predators	80
5.4.15. Water bodies	81
CHAPTER 6 IMPACT OF ANTHROPOGENIC ALTERATIONS IN THE AQUATIC HABITAT AND THE PREVALENCE OF CHYTRID FUNGUS ON THE POPULATION OF AMPHIBIANS IN VADODARA	101
6.1. INTRODUCTION	102
6.1.1. Introduced Species	102
6.1.2. Climate Change	102
6.1.3. UV-B Radiation	102
6.1.4. Habitat Modification and Pollution	103
6.1.5. Diseases	105
6.2. STUDY SITES	106
6.2.1 Study sites for first objective	106
6.2.2 Study sites for second objective	107
6.2.3 Study sites selected for third objective	107
6.3. MATERIALS AND METHODS	108
6.3.1. Physicochemical Analysis of the Water Body and Amphibian Survey	108
6.3.2. Method for Heavy Metal Analysis	108

CONTENTS

6.3.3. Method for Diagnosing Chytridiomycosis	109
6.3.3.1. Collection of specimen	109
6.3.3.2. Histology	109
6.3.4. Statistical Analysis	109
6.4. RESULTS	109
6.4.1. Water Quality and Amphibian Population	109
6.4.1.1. Physicochemical Parameters	109
6.4.1.2. Species Richness and Species Presence/ Absence	110
6.4.1.3. Breeding of Amphibians	111
6.4.1.4. Eutrophication	111
6.4.2. Heavy Metal Study	111
6.4.3. Chytridiomycosis Study	112
6.5. DISCUSSION	113
GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS	136
BIBLIOGRAPHY	151