Toxicology has been included in syllabus of third year Zoology at B.Sc. level at various Indian Universities. Apart from this inclusion, toxicology has attracted attention of various veterinary, medical and paramedical courses. For a student of environmental science too, this subject has been of particular interest as environmental toxicology plays a very important role in understanding of intricate and delicate balance between anthropogenic impact due to development in technology resulting into hazardous pollution in every possible arena such as atmosphere, hydrosphere and lithosphere.

Under such conditions, this book was a great welcome as it touches upon various aspects of toxicology studies such as: Nature of toxins, Naturally occurring toxins, Toxins as food additives, Toxins from bacteria, fungi and plants, Human health hazard by microbial degraded grain, toxins from animals, metallic, corrosive and non-metallic toxins, insecticides and weedicides, drug abuse, toxicity studies in animals, receptors, bioaccumulation of toxicants, food preservatives, tranquilizers and antacids etc.

This is evident from the above enlisting of the topics that almost all important topics are touched upon by Dr. Lahir in his book on Toxicology. Author has systematically evolved the idea of toxicology in his book as he has started from a basic concept about nature of toxins and gradually ended with physiological processes of receptors and bioaccumulation of the toxicants. The chapter on toxins from animals especially needs a mention as it touches upon the vast array of toxicants which are systematically given from dinoflagellates to reptiles. The book also gives some idea about toxicity studies in animals as many researchers are in active research about toxicology and effects of toxins on terrestrial, aquatic and estuarine animals.

The treatment given to each topic is very innovative and is of student-friendly nature. The easy language and meticulous explanations of the topics adds to the usefulness of the book from the students’ point of view. The undergraduate as well as postgraduate students can therefore rely upon this book for clear understanding of the concepts of toxicology. Teachers and researchers will certainly be benefited by such text as a glossary and relevant references are cited at the end of the book.

Apart from academic interest, this book can also be useful even for a layman as the concepts covered in this are given in a very lucid language without any jargons and too much of technical details.

The illustrations and the photographs are of good quality and are easily reproducible if a students wishes to draw them in his or her examination paper.

The additions of topics like ports of entry of toxicants, hepatotoxicity, nephrotoxicity, neurotoxicity and aspects of uptake, accumulation and depuration of certain pollutants could have been added to the book as these topics are included in most of the Indian universities’ syllabi.

Similarly the case studies of recent toxicological hazards could be included for the benefit of students of environmental science. Especially events such as Bhopal Gas tragedy, Chernobyl disaster, oil pollution after Iraq war in 1991 could have been added as addendum as these could make an interesting reading.

There may be many books available in this field but the clarity, presentation and usefulness of this book is praiseworthy. The scientific community would be certainly waiting for many more such ventures in which the subject may be made easier. Even the layman and the seekers of knowledge would certainly welcome such kinds of books.

Dr. Nandini Deshmukh

Head, Department of Zoology, Kirti College, Dadar, Mumbai - 400 028, India.