

Prof. Sushil Kumar Dutta

Prof. Dutta has contributed in two areas of Life Sciences; Developmental Biology and Systematics of amphibians and reptiles. His initial research contribution deals with functional morphology of frog development. The most noteworthy is the regeneration research in frog tadpoles, published in 'Nature'. Subsequently, Prof. Dutta's research focused on systematics of amphibians, as is evidenced from two of his books "Amphibians of Sri Lanka" and "Amphibians of India and Sri Lanka: Checklist & Bibliography". In addition, he is one of the contributors for the book "Amphibians species of the World", published by the Allen Press, USA. Prof. Dutta has refined taxonomic characters for use in the modern day taxonomic research of amphibians and most of the Indian herpetologist has been following his system of species description. From 1997 till to date, he has described several new species of frogs from India and Indo-Chinese regions. The above contributions indicate Prof. Dutta's achievements in taxonomic research. In recognition to his contribution to the taxonomy of Indian amphibians, a new genus of toad has been named after him as "*Duttaphrynus*" in the book "The amphibian Tree of Life", published by the American Museum of natural History, New York, USA.

During the last five years, Prof. Dutta's research interest is concentrated in Taxonomy & Wildlife around the country. In wildlife, he has published several books and book chapters. So far as taxonomy is concerned, his research collaboration has been extended to southern, western, northern and north-eastern India. Prof. Dutta started publishing new species of frogs from India {Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Orissa and Northeast India (Assam and Nagaland)}. During the last five years, Prof. Dutta started incorporating the modern taxonomic tools (molecular taxonomy) into the studies of systematics of amphibians and his collaborative research with NCBS, Bangalore; CCMB, Hyderabad and Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun has resulted in the discovery of the most fascinating frog of the century from the Western Ghats of India. This is the result of his molecular taxonomic thoughts, which is also the first of its kind in the country and has also been published in India (Current Science). The rare distinction achieved by Prof. Dutta is through the "SCIENCE" (2010) (The impact of conservation on the status of the World's Vertebrates) which is Global in nature (with 170 authors from 48 countries).