PREFACE

The fingerprints the most valuable and important clue material for identification of individuals as these are permanent and unique to every person and are frequently present on the scene of occurrence. As we know it is not possible to lift or move any object without touching it. Identification from fingerprints is based on individual characteristics found in the form of epidermal ridge minutiae or ridge characteristics. The ridge characteristics make fingerprints specific and important for personal identification. Fingerprint experts encounter number of problems in the analysis of fingerprints and in some cases he may be required to give information regarding side and sex of the individual from single fingerprint. The problem gets more complicated in the examination of partial, blurred or smudged fingerprints. Since not much systematic information is available on the type, location and distribution of various epidermal minutiae and their relationship with sex of individual in different populations.

Keeping in view these points the present study was conducted to determine the type, location and distributions of different epidermal ridge minutiae and sex from a single fingerprint of an individual. The study could not be made as extensive due to the lack of data on other populations. Nevertheless, the conclusions derived will be quite helpful for analyzing fingerprints in forensic cases.