PREFACE

In India dairy farming is considered a major rural industry and the income of 40-70 per cent rural households is derived through the maintenance of one or two milk animals. The unhygienic and poor managemental conditions of animal sheds make them susceptible to many respiratory disorders. Though a number of bacteria and viruses are incriminated in the etiology of respiratory diseases, the role of the fungi as causative agents of pulmonary disorders in animals is not well established so far. The present study has been contemplated to investigate the occurrence and etiological significance of different moulds and yeasts in the respiratory system of diseased as well as healthy domesticated ruminants. This work has been divided into 3 sections. The section one deals with a comprehensive and systematic survey of potentially pathogenic fungi in the respiratory tracts of diseased and apparently normal animals. The occurrence of nasal rhinosporiodisis in domesticated ruminants is discussed in section two. The third section describes the incidence of fungi associated with pneumonic lungs of buffaloes, sheep and goats slaughtered at abattoirs.

During the course of this study a number of fungi and actinomycetes have been isolated for the
first time from the nasal exudates and pneumonic lungs of diseased ruminants thus establishing a new host field. It is hoped that further studies may help to explore certain preventive and control measures against the pulmonary mycoses of domesticated animals.

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