Scorpions are widely distributed throughout the world but they are commonly seen in tropical regions. In India, about 86 different species belonging to genus *Palamneus* and *Buthus* are known to exist. In Southern India, particularly in Tamil Nadu, the scorpions belonging to genus *Buthus* are more frequently seen.

Many complications follow scorpion sting and these depend on the age of the victim. Children are more prone to serious complications. In Madras, the peak incidence of 'scorpion sting complication' is observed during summer months as these scorpions try to come out of their hiding place during the hot weather and sting those with whom they come into contact. The early symptoms observed are a sharp stinging pain followed by numbness and drowsiness; in children, apart from the local reaction of pain, symptoms of peripheral failure are very common apart from other side effects like toxic myocarditis, rarely pulmonary edema or convulsions.

In experimental animal studies various side effects were observed and they were related to the dose of scorpion venom administered. The effect of scorpion
venom in different strengths on selected experimental animals and the efficacy of various drugs in mitigating the toxic effects and the relevant data are presented in this thesis.

Various drugs have been tried in combating the side effects of scorpion sting. In clinical study management of cases was mostly confined to symptomatic treatment for the relief of pain, treatment of shock and peripheral failure, and occasionally other complications like pulmonary oedema, toxic myocarditis and seizures. The beneficial effects of adrenergic blocking agents upon the survival rate in shock both in clinical trials and experimental studies are well documented. It is not clear whether it is due to adrenergic blocking action alone. Adrenergic blocking drug was used in the present study in the form of lytic cocktail along with promethazine and pethidine in all the experimental animals and also in combination with atropine in cases associated with cardiac arrhythmias. In the present study, it is found that chlorpromazine was effective in reversing hypotension and in combination with atropine it was effective in controlling cardiac arrhythmias.