CHAPTER 3
OBJECTIVES

➢ To study the distribution, colony size, habitat selection and roosting patterns of microchiropterans in Tirunelveli district.

➢ To evaluate patterns of genetic variation between the hipposiderids namely, *H. bicolor, H. speoris and H. ater* in the study area, and to reconstruct the phylogenetic relationship using RAPD-PCR in mitochondrial Cytochrome c Oxidase subunit 1 gene (COI).

➢ To observe the seasonal fluctuation of body mass, reproductive status and breeding habits of *Hipposideros speoris* and *H. ater*.

➢ To find and analyse the volatile compounds in frontal gland secretions of *H. speoris* and *H. ater* using GC-MS; their molecular chemistry and biological function mainly to observe the importance of compounds in reproductive and roosting behaviour.