In an ecosystem, organism and environment are two inseparable entities. The environment being labile, no organism is ever subjected to constant environmental conditions. One of the causes of environmental alteration is the ever increasing problem of pollution. Environmental pollution is the unfavourable alteration of our surroundings, wholly or largely as a by-product of man's action. It can be through the direct or indirect effects of changes in energy patterns, radiation levels, chemical and physical constitution. Chemical pollution mainly occurs through the organic and inorganic chemical wastes of which heavy metals are one of the predominant pollutants. The effect of heavy metals on animals in various ecosystems attracted the attention of a number of researchers during the last few decades.

All heavy metals are potentially harmful to most organisms, aquatic or terrestrial, at some level or other, and produce toxic effects (Lucky et al., 1975). Several reports have appeared in recent years suggesting that heavy metals interfere with various metabolic aspects of an organism and cause the death or sublethal pathology of different functional systems (Wobester,
Pollution of aquatic environment by heavy metals is becoming a serious problem as the industrialization and use of chemical fertilizers and fungicides in agriculture becomes more intense. This not only endangers the survival of organisms inhabiting this environment but also leads to harmful effects on human beings. Heavy metals accumulated in fish creating a hazard to man directly from the consumption of animals contaminated with these metals and indirectly via cattle and poultry fed with fish meal. The main source of these heavy metals is the aquatic environment and the organisms living in it. Hence, it is essential to understand the various responses of aquatic organisms to heavy metals in order to analyse their survival and productivity before connecting them to human health. Fish represent an important component of aquatic life and serve as a staple food for human beings. Many fish kills due to water pollution were reported annually to the Environmental Protection Agency (Southwick, 1976). Though there is a lot of data available on the effects of heavy metals on freshwater fishes, but it is mostly inconsistent and incomplete. Hence, a small segment of this vast subject
is examined here, by observing the lethal and sub-lethal effects of aluminium and copper, the two common pollutants from a number of industrial effluents, on a few biochemical aspects of the fingerlings of the freshwater teleost, *Cyprinus carpio* (Linnaeus). This work is only preliminary and further studies are required to attain a definitive conclusion. A rigid limitation in the availability of laboratory facilities and time for completion of work prevented the author from preventing into the core of this investigation. Nevertheless the author is hopeful of pursuing this work further.