1. The study of amphibian fauna of Himachal Pradesh is based on thorough faunistic surveys of twelve districts distributed along the foot of the Himalayas to the lesser and greater Himalayas, representing various ecological niches. Sixteen species representing four families, viz. Ranidae, Rhacophoridae, Bufonidae and Microhylidae have been recorded.

2. The systematic studies are based on various external morphological characters, although osteological characters of a few species have also been included. The
following morphological characters have been considered to be important in the amphibian taxonomy:

(a) Structure of integument
(b) Shape and structure of head
(c) Tips of fingers and toes and their subarticular tubercles
(d) Presence or absence of metatarsal and metacarpal tubercles
(e) Extent of web.

The value of the following osteological characters in the taxonomy of amphibians have also been considered useful:

(a) Shape and structure of the ascending process of the premaxillaries.
(b) Structure and shape of various bones, viz. nasal, frontoparietal, prootic and squamosal.
(c) Angles of clavicles.

3. A dichotomous key based on morphological as well as osteological characters to diagnose adults and some tadpoles is given.

4. The tips of fingers and toes with discs in *Polypedates maculatus* and *Anolops afghanus* are considered to be advanced arboreal and scansorial characters in montane forms. *Rana (Paa) minica*, *Rana (Paa) liebigii*
and *Rana* (Fae) *vicinia* have been considered to represent intermediate forms. The developed sucker of tadpoles of *Amolops afghanus* and a rudimentary one in the tadpole of *Bufo himalayanus* is a torrential stream adaptation.

5. Mouth with larger lips, presence and number of labial teeth and the larger width of tail in tadpoles are considered to be hill-stream adaptations.

6. Altitudinal distribution of amphibians of Himachal Pradesh shows the restricted foot hill distribution of *Rana* (*Dicroglossus*) *t. tiscrina* and *Uperodon syrtosia*; and up to 1600 m of *Rana* (*Dicroglossus*) *c. cyanophlyctis*, *Rana* (*Dicroglossus*) *limnocharis syhairensi* and *Microhyla ornata* whereas *Rana* (Fae) *alina*, *Rana* (Fae) *liebigii*, *Rana* (Fae) *vicinia* and *Amolops afghanus* are distributed in the altitudinal range of 700-2500 m and *Bufo himalayanus* and *Bufo viridis* occur at altitudinal ranges of 1500-3500 m.

7. The absence of amphibians in Lahul and Spiti, a district of Himachal Pradesh sandwiched between Leh and Ladakh (J & K) on one side and district Kinnaur (H.P) on the other side is attributed to ecological and geographical barriers, viz. cold deserts and high mountains.

8. Various species of high altitudes are acclimatized with respect to local environmental conditions of temperature.
Due to temperate climate, the feeding and breeding activity is restricted only to summer months. With the onset of winter (decreased temperature and decreased photoperiod), the activity decreases and is regained with the approach of autumn and summer (increase in temperature and photoperiod).

9. The food and feeding habits of four species of Bufo i.e., two species of high altitude forms, viz. Bufo viridis and Bufo himalayanus, and two species of low altitude forms, viz. Bufo melanostictus and Bufo atomaticus have been studied.

10. The food of the toads has been found to be correlated with the surrounding terrestrial as well as aquatic fauna. The percentage of gut contents has been studied by displacement method and the contents are identified up to generic level, as far as possible.

11. Selection of food items does exist after the emergence of insect fauna with the onset of monsoons.

12. The quantity and size of the prey is directly proportional to the gape of the mouth.

13. The food of the animal was also found to be correlated with the activity of the toad e.g. Bufo melanostictus, being active, prefer flying insect fauna whereas Bufo himalayanus prefer slow moving semi-aquatic insects.
14. The breeding seasons and periods of various species are recorded but breeding behaviour, courtship patterns, spawns and various developmental stages of two species of Ranidae, viz. *Rana (Paa) minica* and *Amolops afghanus*, and two species of Bufonidae, viz. *Bufo viridis* and *Bufo himalayanus* have been studied.

15. The onset of breeding activity is found to be related with various extrinsic factors, viz. light, temperature and rainfall. The male call has been found to direct the fellow males and females towards breeding site.

16. Various types of spawns, viz. stringed, globular and surface forms have been studied and their adaptive features with respect to the environment discussed.

17. In the montane forms, comparatively more time is required to complete metamorphosis and it remains suspended or retarded with the onset of winter. The metamorphic activity is regained on the approach of autumn (increased temperature and photoperiod).