OBJECTIVES
In Western Ghats, the biodiversity research on amphibians have been directed in four different ways, they are 1) Taxonomy, 2) Species ranges, 3) Species ecology and 4) Conservation (Daniels, 1999). Since there is an alarming rate of global amphibian population decline (Houlahan et al., 2000 and Young et al., 2001), the urge for determining the status of species for conservation is immediate. Many of the autecological studies of Daniels (1992), Krishnamurthy (1996b, 1997a and b), Krishnamurthy et al., (1992) and Krishnamurthy and Katre (1993) have stressed the need for specific habitat and microhabitat conditions required for the amphibians. Because of bimodal life and very sensitive skin, the amphibians are said to be more particular of their habitat and microhabitat among all other vertebrates (Daniels, 1991). However, it is difficult to determine the status of a species unless one has a thorough knowledge of population dynamics and distribution (Heenar and McClosky, 1997). Understanding the population dynamics of the most preferred species would reduce the pressure on natural population (Daniels, 1999).

Among the amphibians, the anurans constitute the major part and are easily prone to environmental stress. In Western Ghats, the genus Nyctibatrachus and Nannobatrachus are facing severe threats (Gupta, 1998). The genus Nyctibatrachus consists of 11 species and all are endemic to the Western Ghats (Krishnamurthy et al., 2001a). Amongst these, 4 species are found to be vulnerable, 2 species are endangered and 2 species with lower risk near threatened condition, while 3 species have got data deficient to ascertain IUCN status. Nyctibatrachus aliciae (Inger, Shaffer, Koshy and Bakde, 1984) an endemic anuran is confined to forest streams. It is a small frog that is distributed sparsely in forests of Western Ghats. Literature review on this species in Western Ghats has revealed the basic information on distribution in different localities. But there are no studies on the habitat characters, habitat occupancy, microhabitat requirements, population size, microhabitat and...
Objectives

ecological status of the species. Hence the present study has been conducted with the following objectives –

- Analysis of habitat components
- Distribution pattern of the species with reference to habitat characters
- To furnish the information on habitat of the species
- To understand the impact of habitat changes on the species

The detailed analysis of the habitat components will yield the characteristic features of the habitat of the species. The range of habitat variables that are supporting the species for the sustainable growth in the habitat may be known. The changes in the natural habitat and the factors responsible for the changes may also be understood. Then the suitable conservation measures can be derived on the basis of the existing status of the habitat. The present study will provide the information on the status of *N. aliciae*. This also includes the habitat and microhabitat requirement of the species. The co-existence of the species will be an added advantage to understand the species interaction. All this information will furnish data for practical implementation of the conservation practices in the natural habitat. The study on the status and ecology of an endemic anuran of Western Ghats, India, is an addendum for the conservation practices.