STUDY AREA
3. STUDY AREA

3.1. Topography:

Some of the villages, predominantly inhabited by tribals, around Jeypore town in Koraput district of Orissa state formed the study area. Jeypore town is located 20 kms north of Koraput. Koraput (17° 5′ and 20° 30′ N latitude and 81° 27′ and 84° 10′ E longitude) is the largest and southern most district of Orissa state, situated at the tri-junction formed by the states of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh (Fig. 3). Prior to the constitution of Orissa as a separate Governor’s province in the year 1936, Koraput was under Madras Presidency as a sub-division of Visakhapatnam district. In earlier part of this century, it was referred as Jeypore hill tracts as it formed a part of Jeypore Presidency state. Based on physiography, climate and hydrology, India has been classified recently into 9 geographical zones (Ramachandra Rao, 1984) and a major part of present Koraput district comes under the East Central India. This district is bordered by Kalahandi and Phulbani districts of Orissa and Raipur district of Madhya Pradesh in the north, by Ganjam district of Orissa and Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh in the east, by the Vishakapatnam and Vizianagaram districts of Andhra Pradesh in the south east, by East Godavari and Khamman districts of Andhra Pradesh in the south and by Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh in the west (Fig. 4). Thus, this district borders 10
Fig. 3. Geographical location of Koraput District in Orissa State.
Fig. 4. Koraput district showing the boundaries, zones and physiography (a) and altitudes of different zones (b).