PREFACE

Animals have played an important role in the subsistence of human society right from the hunter-gathering stage of human history which continued up to the beginning of Holocene period around 10,000 years B.P. Due to climatic changes during the Holocene period big games disappeared and small animals came into picture. It was only after these environmental changes that the man started settled life by domesticating animals and plants. Therefore, the study of animals or for that matter domestic animal is an integral part of archaeological studies.

The domestication of animals, about 10,000 years ago, was a major step in the cultural progress of man as it not only ensured a more reliable food supply but also provided a new source of energy to man, which could be harnessed for transport and for carrying out a variety of economic activities. History of Harappan society thus, cannot be satisfactorily reconstructed without fully understanding the animal remains in archaeological studies.

The study of dry, dirty and dusty bones of animals of bygone era can tell us more about man-animal relationship and several other aspects of the past cultures. Meticulously collected faunal assemblage from an archaeological site throws light on animal domestication, reason for occupation of a site, religious and social aspects, cultural contacts and activity area
within the site and furthers enlightens us about the secondary use of the animals viz. bone tool technology, techniques of butchering and hunting, palaeopathology, cooking practice, the distribution and migration of animals.

The study has been presented in seven chapters and each chapter is divided into sub-headings. The brief account of each chapter is as under:

The first chapter is introductory which deals with the significance of archaeozoological studies, archaeozoological research in India, the scope, objectives and methodology of this research work. Brief introduction of Harappan civilization has also been given in this chapter.

The second chapter deals with different issues related to the animals viz., domestication, meaning of domestication, theories, initial area of domestication and its chronology. The differences between wild and domestic animals and the reasons for it have been discussed in it.

In the third chapter, the archaeological evidences related to animals viz. painted motifs on pottery, terracotta, various metals, faience figurines and animal motifs on seals and sealings have been studied.

The theme of the fourth chapter is the study of the domestic animals. Archaeozoological evidences of cattle (*Bos indicus*), buffalo (*Bublus bublis*), sheep (*Ovis aries*), goat (*Capra hircus*), pig (*Sus domesticus*), dog (*Canis familiaris*), camel (*Camelus dromedaries*), horse (*Equus caballus*), ass (*Equus
asinus), cat (*Felis domesticus*), elephant (*Elephas maximus*) and fowl (*Gallus gallus*) found in excavations are discussed here in.

The **chapter fifth** deals with the regional distribution of archaeozoological evidences with regard to both wild and domestic forms of animals focussing on Baluchistan, Indus Valley, Ghaggar Basin, Gujarat and Ganga-Yamuna doab regions.

In **chapter sixth**, socio and economic conditions of Harappans, based on archaeological and archaeozoological remains have been discussed. The researcher has classified the Harappan society into classes which were directly or indirectly connected with the animal husbandry. These classes include the hunter-gatherers, pastoralists, agriculturists or farmers, fisherman or fishing communities, cart makers, butcherers, trader or transporters, ivory, bone craftsmen (jewellers) and priest groups.

The **last chapter** gives an elaborate account of the conclusion of the above explanation by further suggesting domestic animals as an ‘advancing frontier’ in the Harappan times.

A Bibliography and Appendices are appended at the end of the text.

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