F O R E W O R D

Flies visit every home in all parts of the world and they are the closest arthropod neighbours of mankind. Flies act as carriers of pathogenic organisms on account of their habit of visiting all kinds of exposed food material, as well as faeces and other filthy substances. The larvae of flies also cause myiasis in man and domesticated animals. Myiasis in animals often leads to death, thus causing huge economic loss.

Eradication of harmful flies is a problem for every civilised society. Detailed information regarding bionomics of these important flies is sadly lacking in our country. Keeping this lacuna in view Dr. P. Roy, of the Department of Zoology, Siliguri College, Siliguri, India (1973) and Dr. S. Das, of the Department of Zoology, Chandannagar College, Hooghly, India (1980), studied various aspects of bionomics of these important flies in Siliguri and in Calcutta.

The present work has been undertaken as an extension of the above studies in order to obtain a clear knowledge of the Spatial distribution, Composition of population in garbage dump, slaughter house and market areas, altitudinal distribution, seasonal occurrence, photophilic nature, behaviour towards various attractants, diurnal activity and activities

under experimental conditions (*viz.*, feeding, mating, oviposition and pupal emergence), degree of domestication and relative dangerousness of these flies in Jalpaiguri District, West Bengal, India.