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***Book Review** (Open Access)*

BOOK REVIEW: *EDIBLE NON-MARINE MOLLUSCS OF INDIA*, AUTHORED BY ARAVIND N.A. AND ANUSHREE JADHAV

***Sandhya Leeda D'Souza**
Department of Zoology, St. Joseph's University
Bangalore -560025
**Author for Correspondence: sandhyadsouza1@gmail.com*

This book under review gives the comprehensive account on documented edible non marine molluscs of India. The descriptions on 41 species of molluscs, including 9 terrestrial and 32 freshwater molluscs are provided in the book. India possesses remarkable molluscan fauna homing 5000 species across the marine, freshwater and terrestrial habitats. Of these 1500 non-marine molluscan species are endemic to the country. Till date the studies on edible non-marine molluscs of India are far from complete but limited to localised regions.

Molluscs are integral part of people's livelihoods because of their edible properties and medicinal importance. The freshwater and land molluscs are mainly consumed by people of Northeast India and West Bengal as their necessities. The pictorial keybook is valuable field guide for the researchers and scientific community because the information represented in this book is result of extensive research, integrating with original findings by the data of many scholarly investigations.

This book gives the detailed descriptions of each mollusc species discussing ecology and habitat preferences, their geographical distribution, conservation status, uses and related additional information. It starts with brief introduction to molluscs, taxonomy, edible nonmarine molluscs, adding a note on conservation. The freshwater species and land snail species are described in separate sections. The list of edible molluscs with their endemic status, red list status, habitat and uses are represented in tabular form is ideal for the understanding of reader. The nutritive value of edible species are given in the form of table based on the existing literature determines the suitability of the species for human consumption. The IUCN status, uses, endemicity, habitats viz. lentic, lotic, terrestrial are depicted in the form of icons is innovative approach, will be convenient for the reader to have a quick look on the species.

The book resolves the identity of taxonomically challenging cryptic species such as *Brotia*, *Idiopoma* and *Filopaludina* which is interesting. The distribution maps of the species are provided are valuable resources since the distribution data is lacking for widely distributed species. This renders the scope for further research and species inventories. The species descriptions are accompanied by images from three distinct angles aiding in their quick identification through conchological characters and comparative analysis. The radula of certain molluscs are dealt though Scanning Electron Microscopy images providing insights on their dentition and feeding preferences.

Non-marine molluscs are facing challenges in wild because of anthropogenic pressures, overharvesting etc. Adoption of heliciculture or snail farming methods are suggested that will help to enhance the livelihood of local communities. Overall, the book is scientifically sound, well-organized enlightening the society about the unexplored group of molluscs.

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