

accepts its superiority.

**Territoriality.** Basic need of an organism is to have a space for living. The area covered by several members of a species in search of food and mate is called Home Range. A pair or group of individuals occupy a territory for breeding purposes and different groups may occupy an overlapping home range but not the territory. The territories or the definite areas of land occupied by most of the animal species where the resident enjoys priority of access to limited resource which may not be enjoyed by the same animal in other area (Kaufmann 1971). This behaviour of organism is called territorial behaviour or territoriality. E.g. the male stickleback fish during breeding season, protects its territorial border from intruders. Such territorial defense is seen in many groups of insects and vertebrates. A territory may be large or small depending upon the size and animal population will be more. In early breeding season, territorial behaviour is exhibited by male birds. Whenever a female bird comes in the area, it is courted by males and eventually it settles to form a nest. Animals are confident of the faithfulness of their mates in their

own territory and even they do not allow them to leave their territorial boundaries and if by chance females move out of the boundary males allure them to come back in their own boundary. A smaller territory is seen in the case of insects, spiders, fishes and lizards *e.g.* Texan frogs make their territory in about 400 sq. meters whereas swan has 1 sq. km. and deer one to two and a half thousand acres. The hunting lions and tigers remain between 20 to 25 sq.km. Territorial behaviour of animals control the population size of animals *e.g.* in an over populated area of birds, birds without territories will fail to raise young ones and also have a low survival chance for themselves. Whenever population is low all birds will have a suitable nesting place and breed successfully. The territory may be divided into smaller areas where an animal performs different activities like sleeping, drinking or eating etc. It is not that the animals roam randomly but they follow a definite routine in the daily activities like eating, resting, bathing and mating etc. A daily routine activity has been observed in Indian Rhinoceros by Prof. Wolffan Ulrich which has never changed in their life time. After waking in the morning Rhinoceros eats first then rests in a muddy pool of water and by noon it goes to its bedroom for resting. In the evening till late midnight, it grazes and then goes to its bedroom for sleeping where it spends its rest of the night. Dogs, tigers and lions mark their territories by urination and it is defended by their dominant members. A stronger animal which is also a dominant one in the group will also try to defend its home territory. Dogs defend their territories as observed by Niko Tinbergen. He observed in the sledge dogs of Greenland that a trespassing strange dog will be removed from their territories. The young dogs of the group follow their elders because they do not yet know of their territories. In insects territorial defense is seen *e.g.* in dragon flies whenever a male dragonfly meets another male in his territory, it lifts its abdomen by showing threatening postures but if the male encounters a female it lowers the abdomen. The upliftment of the abdomen by the male is a warning signal to the opponent by which it signals to the opponent to leave the territory.