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Dr. H.T. Lalremsanga

Born on 14th February 1979, Dr. H.T. Lalremsanga is currently working as the Professor & Head, Department of Zoology in Mizoram University. He did his MSc in Zoology from North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong in the year 2002 with NET-JRF under CSIR-UGC and

thereafter completed his PhD from the same university in 2011. He joined the Dept. of Zoology, Mizoram University in 2007 and subsequently promoted to the rank of Professor in the same department in 2021. His specialization is in the areas of Developmental Biology, Herpetology, Biosystematics, Taxonomy, Animal Ecology.

Prof. H.T. Lalremsanga is actively engaged in organizing environmental conservation awareness activities among local people and various institutions. His current research area is mainly on inventory survey, taxonomy, biosystematics, snake venom, biology of fauna and flora of Mizoram. His works revealed causative agent of seasonal change in the coloration of Rih Dil erasing earlier mythological belief, and biology of amphibians and reptiles. Moreover, he is an active campaigner for snakebite management, rescued hundreds of snakes when he survived three times after severely bitten by cobras and viper, helping snakebite patients to get anti-venin and also collaborated with Premium serum (Pune) for supplying adequate amount of anti-serum in a lower cost, especially for the rural areas. He also prepared more than 20 video documentaries for creating awareness on the fauna (especially on the biology of snakes, other reptiles and amphibians) of Mizoram, released a book of Snakes of Mizoram (*Mizoram Rul Chanchin*) in local languages. His works have significantly motivated the local people to change their attitude towards snake, their conservation and snakebite management leaving traditional beliefs.

He is among the founder members of one of the biggest non-profit, environmental NGOs in Mizoram, Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Network (BIOCONE) in 2009 and won **the Balipara Foundation Annual award 2015** during his Presidential term for their contribution towards nature conservation in Mizoram. He already published more than **188 scientific papers** in various reputed and peer-reviewed international journals. He also contributed **21 book chapters** and **two books**. **His research team has generated genetic data of most amphibian and reptile species of Mizoram**; described **new species of frog**, *Leptbrachella tamdil* (Amphibia: Anura: Megophryidae), **limbless amphibian**, *Ichthyophis benjii* (Amphibia: Gymnophiona: Ichthyophiidae), **eight new species of bent-toed geckos** (*Cyrtodactylus aaronbaueri*, *C. agarwali*,

C. bengkhuaiai, *C. karsticola*, *C. exercitus*, *C. lungleiensis*, *C. ngopensis* and *C. siahaensis* (Reptilia: Sauria: Geckonidae), **parachuting gecko**, *Gekko mizoramensis* (the only known species of parachuting lizard in Indian mainland), **a swamp-eel** *Monopterus ichthyophoides* (Teleostei: Synbranchiformes: Synbranchidae), **two natricid snakes** like *Herpetoreas murlen* and *Blythia hmuifang* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Colubridae), **a new green pitviper** *Trimeresurus mayaae* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Viperidae) and **a new genus and new species of natricid snake**, *Smithophis atemporalis* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Natricidae) from Mizoram; **revalidated two slug-eating snakes**, *Pareas modestus* and *Pareas jerdoni* (Squamata: Pareidae); **elevated two subspecies of coralsnakes** *Sinomicrurus iwasakii* and *S. swinhoei* (Squamata: Elapidae) at full species level; **rediscovered reptiles** (*Liopeltis stoliczkae*, *Lycodon septentrionalis* and *Oligodon catenatus*) and **amphibian** (*Chirixalus doriae*), **added many new state and country faunal records** for both amphibians and reptiles; resolved the systematics of barred wolf snakes in the *Lycodon striatus* complex; **discovered three clades** from the evolutionary lineages of a **deadly venomous Banded krait** (*Bungarus fasciatus*) complex like Indo-Myanmar, East Asian and Sundaic clades; delimited the renowned viper, **Pope's pit viper** (*Trimeresurus popeiorum*) into India, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Southern China, while the rest of known earlier eastward species need further verification.

With collaborators, **venomic properties** of deadly venomous snakes like **Green pit vipers** (*Popeia popeiorum*, *Trimeresurus erythrurus*, *T. septentrionalis* and *Viridovipera medoensis*, **Banded krait** (*Bungarus fasciatus*) and **cobras** (*Naja* spp.) prevalent in the region have been characterized and his work also led to disproval of the efficacy of Indian antivenom products via cross reactivity test.

He is frequently invited as a resource person in various international/national/state level seminars/workshops/trainings/conferences held in various institutes. His team had been actively engaged in conservation awareness programmes and rescuing wild animals in various parts of the state. He is also actively engaged as a member of 25 professional committees. He also completed

five extramural research projects as the Principal Investigator including three international projects and currently pursuing seven ongoing projects.

Prof. Lalremsanga has been recently awarded International Herpetological Symposium (IHS), USA Grant award 2021; Rufford Foundation, UK 2022; The Habitats Trust Grant award 2022; Chicago Board of Trade Endangered Species Grant Award 2023 (Chicago Zoological Society). He is also a recipient of the **Special Science Award 2023** from the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of Mizoram for his outstanding contribution on research in science benefited by local people.

Prof. Lalremsanga is a member of IUCN Viper Specialist Group, IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG) 2021-2025, German Society for Herpetology & Herpetoculture and Mizoram State Biodiversity Board. He is also a reviewer of seven reputed peer-reviewed journals.

Under his research guidance, more than 40 MSc dissertations and three (3) PhD and two (2) M.Phil. theses had been submitted and awarded. At present, six (6) MSc student and 12 Ph.D. scholars are working under his supervision on different fields like, amphibian biology, herpetofauna of various Community Reserved Forest, biology of carnivores and primates, cicada diversity, evaluation of medicinal plants, biological management of pests by using Entomopathogenic nematodes (EPN), identification and molecular analysis of parasites found in snakes, morphological and molecular analysis of scorpions, reptiles and amphibians, etc.

