

Ethnobiological Studies from *Manusmruti*: XIII Environmental Factors and Views on Origin of life as Perceived Then and Now

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ABSTRACT Ancient Indian science was pioneered to identify the ecological factors (*Mahaabhootas*): Ether, Air, Fire, Water and Earth and had realized their effect on biological system at the subtle level. The concept on origin of life was emphasized more on metaphysical (but scientific) principles, in addition to the modern theory of chemical evolution.