

A C K N O W L E D G M E N T

I would like to record with great pleasure my deep sense of gratitude and thanks to Dr. P.M. Ambadkar, Professor and Head of Zoology, Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, M.S. University of Baroda, Baroda for suggesting this problem for my research work. His innovative guidance, invaluable suggestions, constructive criticism and sound advice, apart from the devotion of his valuable time, have contributed to the successful completion of the thesis.

It is my pleasure to thank Professor A.K. Desai for his constant encouragement and for providing strong motivational force throughout the course of present study. I wish to express my sincere thanks to Dr. (Mrs.) V.C. Thadani for introducing me to the subject and enhancing my interest in the field of research.

Thanks are also due, to all my teachers and non-teaching staff who have rendered timely help to me during the present study.

I gratefully acknowledge the financial support from UGC, Government of India by way of award of a Junior (1984-86) as well as a Senior Research Fellowship (1986-87) during the tenure of which the present investigation was carried out.

I am indebted to my parents, brother and sisters for their constant encouragement and moral support all throughout the course of present study.