

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

With folded hands I thank the almighty above for helping me in every stage of my life. The work presented in this thesis would not have been possible without my close association with many people. I take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all those who made this Ph.D. thesis possible. First and foremost, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to my research guide and also Head Department of Zoology Prof. Dolly Kumar for her dedicated help, advice, inspiration, encouragement and continuous support throughout my Ph.D. Her enthusiasm, integral view on research and her mission for providing high-quality work, has made a deep impression on me. I owe her lots of gratitude for having shown me the right way of completing the research work. She and her family members have always been there for me with their supporting hands whenever I needed it the most. I am really glad to be associated with a person like Prof. Dolly Kumar in my life. My deep sense of gratitude to the Ex Head Department of Zoology, Prof. P.C. Mankodi for always providing me Departmental facilities and all my Teachers who taught me Zoology. I express my heart-felt thanks to Rupa Sule, Mamta Deb, ArchanaYadav, Laxmi Pillai & Harshita Sharma for their scientific inputs, personal help and friendly nature. That always made me feels at ease in my course of Ph.D.

My special thanks to fellow colleagues Gade Sir, Ravi Sir, Rameshwar Sir, Ankur Upadhyay, Geetanjly Malik for always standing by my side and sharing a great relationship as compassionate friends. I will always cherish the warmth shown by them. I must thank the office staff of Department of Zoology, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda for their kind support throughout my tenure. I owe my deep gratitude towards my wife Priti & daughter Hetva for her eternal support and understanding of my goals and aspirations. Her infallible love and support has always been my strength. Her patience and sacrifice will remain my inspiration throughout my life. Without her help, I would not have been able to complete much of what I have done and become who I am. A special thanks to my younger

brother Priyank, sister in law Shreeji and my niece Vaishnavi for their love and affection. My heartfelt regards to my father in law, mother in law, brother in law and his family. As always it is impossible to mention everybody who had an impact on this work however there are those whose spiritual support is even more important. I feel a deep sense of gratitude for my grandparents, mother, father, who formed part of my vision and taught me good things that really matter in life. Their infallible love and support has always been my strength. Their patience and sacrifice will remain my inspiration throughout my life. I am also very much grateful to all my family members for their constant inspiration and encouragement.

Purohit Hardik Yogeshbhai