

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is a pleasure to record my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. J. C. George, Professor and Head of the Department of Zoology, M. S. University of Baroda, under whose direction and inspiring guidance the present work was carried out.

My thanks are due to the Director, Department of Fisheries, Government of Gujarat, for granting permission to undertake fishing trips on their departmental fishing vessels at Kolak and Daman. I am grateful to Mr. D. M. Desai and Mr. M. P. Dixit, the officers in charge of the above stations and the members of the staff of the Fisheries School, Bhadbhut, for the help and facilities offered to me during the fishing trips. I am indebted to my colleagues Mr. K. M. Desai and Mr. A. K. Desai for their valuable help and co-operation in the collection of the specimens used in the present investigations.

I also wish to thank Dr. (Miss) N. J. Chinoy, Dr. (Miss) F. D. Bokdawala, Dr. N. V. Vallyathan and Dr. K. S. S. Nair of the Department of Zoology, for their valuable criticisms and help in the preparation of this thesis.

This research was supported by a grant from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India to Dr. J. C. George.