AKNOWLEDGEMENT

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my guide Dr. Geeta Padate, Professor of the Department of Zoology, The M. S. University of Baroda, Vadodara for her patience, motivation, enthusiasm, immense knowledge, scholarly guidance, moral insight and profound humanistic belief which boosted me not only to Endeavour or accomplish this research work but also to inculcate scientific vision and sense of gratitude towards her.

I also very grateful to Dr. P. C. Mankodi, Professor and Head, Department of Zoology, The M. S. University of Baroda, Vadodara for his timely and valuable guidance for completion and submission of my research work.

My special and sincere thanks Dr. Jagadish Patil for helping me at all stages of work till completion of the thesis.

I am also very much indebted to Hon'ble Sarkarsaheb Rawal, the Chairman, Hon'ble Jaikumarbhau Rawal (MLA), the Secretary and the former Principal, Dr. N. O. Girase of S.V.S's Dadasaheb Rawal Arts and Science College, Dondaicha, who encouraged me to accomplish my work through their Competent moral support, timely suggestions and accessible facilitation.

I must mention the name of Principal, Dr. I.I. Shaikh and Vice Principal Dr. K.D. Girase of S.V.S's Dadasaheb Rawal Arts and Science College, Dondaicha and heartily thank her motivating me for this attainment.

I spare my special sense of gratitude for Dr. D. P. Bharambe, Department of Applied Chemistry, Faculty of Technology and Engineering, The M. S. University Baroda for moral support and helping in completion of official process in the university and Dr. Kishore Rajput and Dr. Vinay Ravle Department of Botany, The M. S. University Baroda for completion of the thesis.

It is essential for me to keep my special thanks to friend and colleague, from my college S.V.S's D.R. Arts and Science College, Dondaich. Their able academic company produced a power in me to accomplish this work. I acknowledge with thanks Dr. A. P. Ekhande for expertly typing and correcting my thesis, Dr. P.Z. Zambare for technical support during

completion of my thesis and Dr. S. P. Patil for helping me in collection of meteorological data.

I enlarge my sense of thanks to Dr. S. G. Patil, Dr. P. D. Rane, Dr. A. K. Subramanian and Dr. S. S. Talmale, Scientists, Zoological Survey of India, Pune and Mr. K. B. Ahire for guideline in identification of fauna.

I am zealous to express my thanks to Dr. Chandani Patel whose inspiration and Perusal in reading of my thesis helped me a lot. I also thank Dr. Sandhya Godshe for helping me during initial work of my thesis.

I must refer here the names of my colleagues late Mr. V.S. Vaidya, Dr. S. S. Rajput, , Dr. S. B. Girase, Mr. R. K. Chaudhari, Mr. K.K. Kapadne, Dr. P.B. Ahirrao, Dr. K. S. Chaudhari and Mr. V. S. Patel all Associate professors and Mr. Ranvir Girase, Mr. Shyam Bhavsar, Mr. B. B. Girase and Mr. M. R. Girase of S. V. S's D. R. Arts and Science College, Dondaicha whose strong support, timely help, consistent inspiration led me to accomplish the work within a short span of time.

I thank all my colleagues, non-teaching staff of S.V.S's D. R. Arts and Science College, Dondaicha and friends for their encouragement, kindness and constant help.

Also my sincere thanks to Sau. Shubhada Patil and Sau. Varsha Ekhande for sparing time and caring during my research work.

I am also thankful to all the teaching and nonteaching staff members of Department of Zoology, The M. S. University of Baroda for their encouragement, support and timely help whenever required.

I am also thankful to my friends, Mr. Harish Talele, Mr. Rajesh and Mr. Hemant for their kind cooperation during my research work. I am also grateful to Mr. Mohit Mahajan for formatting and setup of the thesis.

Finally, I record a deep sense of gratitude to my father Shri. Dr. Gajanan Tikaram Mahajan and mother Sau. Sulochana Mahajan, my wife Sau. Vaishali and daughters Ku. Vrushali and Ku. Vaibhavi, my son Chi. Saurabh, my brothers Shrikant Mahajan and Salil Mahajan, my brother in law Mr. Shailendra Chirmade and sister Mrs. Anjali Chirmade whose support, tolerance and Love made my task easy.

(Milind Mahajan)