

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Inadequate though these words are, I would like to record with great pleasure, my deep sense of gratitude and thanks to Dr. P.M. Ambadkar, Reader in Zoology, Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, M.S. University of Baroda, Baroda, for broaching the problem and heralding me into the field of research. His inspiring guidance, invaluable suggestions and constructive criticism apart from the devotion of a great deal of his valuable time have contributed greatly to the successful completion of the study.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. R.V. Shah, Professor and Head, Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, M.S. University of Baroda, Baroda, for his sound and invaluable advice, unfailing encouragement and for providing strong motivational force all throughout the course of the present study. Thanks are also due to him for providing all necessary facilities without which this work would not have been in the present form.

I would be failing in my duties if I do not express my sincere thanks to both, University Grants Commission (India) and Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (India) for awarding Junior and Senior Research Fellowships respectively, during the tenure of which the present investigation was carried out.

Finally, I am also indebted to all my colleagues in the department for various types of timely help rendered to me during the preparation of the present thesis.