

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is with great pleasure that I am recording my deep sense of gratitude to Prof. R.V. Shah, Head, Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, M.S. University of Baroda, Baroda, for the suggestion of the problem, and for the guidance and encouragement offered throughout the course of this study.

My thanks are due to Dr. Bonny Pilo, Dr. (Miss) M.V. Asnani, Dr. P.K. Hiradhar, and Dr. G.K. Menon, for their valuable help during the preparation of this thesis.

I am indebted to M.S. University of Baroda for awarding a fellowship to me, during the tenure of which a part of this work was completed. I also gratefully acknowledge the financial support given by the M.S. University to this research project.

Finally, I would like to record my thanks to all my colleagues and friends who have helped me during the course of this study as well as during the preparation of this thesis.

P.L. YADAV