LWS WEHTAL BRARY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

At the very outset, I wish to express my sincere and deep sense of gratitude to *Dr. Kauresh D. Vachhrajani*, for proposing this fascinating field for my research and for his inspiring guidance. His sincere and enthusiastic research attitude and contagious work commitments motivated me to complete my work well in time. His approach in correcting me and my work improved my potentials and induced confidence in me that is going to last for life.

I am thankful to the Heads of the department, Prof. A.V. Ramachandran and Dr. (Ms) G. S. Padate for extending necessary laboratory facilities. I am also thankful to Dr. P. C. Mankodi for his cooperation and advice for my work.

I extend special thanks to Dr. V. K. Vaidya, my God father, Principal, M. L. V. Governmet College, Bhilwara, Rajasthan, for opening the door to Teacher Research Fellowship of UGC, to obtain the necessary documents in order to complete the study. I wish to place on record, my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Anil Bhatnagar, Mrs. Farzana Ahmed, Dr. C. K. Sharma and Dr. R. L. Pitlia and college authorities at my parent institute, who had motivated me to take up research as a career and had always encouraged at various stage of my work.

I am very much thankful to all faculty members, non teaching staff and office staff of Department of Zoology, M. S. University of Baroda, Vadodara for their cooperation and ever ready helping hand.

Many people helped and encouraged me while working and during the preparation of this manuscript. I would like to quote the part they played and couch my gratitude for generous gifts of their time and talents. Mr. Pranav Pandya, Mr. Chandresh Dave, Mr. Ansarullah, Mr. Mahendra Gohil, Ms. Kiran Morya, Ms. Darshee Baxi, Ms. Ankita Parikh and Neelam Pathak deserve special mention since they took great pains to satisfy my need at one time or another. I wish to express my gratitude to all involved for their patience, engagement, openness, and positive approach in investigating new paths of communication and bringing the exercise to a fruitful end.

I have been most fortunate in life regarding friends. Most of my friends from the elementary school days remained in contact with me and we are like a family. In particular, I thank Ruchi Vaidya, Rashmi Maheshwari, Sunita Laddha for their advice and always being positive. I am also thankful to Mrs. Dipti for encouraging and giving suggestions to keep healthy, on diet and life routine.

I am indebted from the deepest part of my head and heart to my husband, RAJEEV for his perpetual love and support, which always remained my strength and shield. My son ATHARV, always cooperated and supported me for field work and all the time I consumed in research work.

My sincere gratitude to my parents without whose blessings and support it was not possible for me to cop up with the problems I faced on the way.

Above all, I bow my head before God almighty for blessing me with good health, a clear mind and hope, during this period for the successful completion of my research program.

Last but not the least; I am also thankful to all my well-wishers for their blessings without which this research work would not have come into existence.

Seema Verma

Vadodara