

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I deem it a great pleasure in expressing my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to my guide Dr. R.G. Panicker, Reader, Department of Zoology for his ceaseless and valuable guidance and for the kind suggestion of the problem.

With due respect, I thank Prof. Bonny Pilo, Vice Dean, Faculty of Science, Head, Department of Zoology and coordinator of UGC-DSA programme, for the valuable criticism, inspiring encouragement and the facilities rendered to me during the course of study.

I express gratefulness to all the teaching and non-teaching staff of the Department of Zoology who have helped me in various ways during the entire tenure of my research work.

My sincere thanks to Dr. B. Suresh, for the accuracy and explicitness in graphic works and without whose constant help this work would never have been possible and to Mr. Rajesh Kumar Sharma, for his timely help, support and kind cooperation which assisted in no small a measure for the completion of this thesis.

I express special thanks to my friends and colleagues, Nancy, Isha, Avnesh and Dr. Ajith (formerly with Chemistry Department) for their ever helping hand and moral support provided to me.

My thanks are also due to Prof. N.M. Bhatt, Head, Department of Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, for providing the photomicroscopic facilities, to Dr. N.D. Parmar, Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry, I.P.D.B., Dahod, Dr. M.Z. Saiyed, Assistant Director of Animal Husbandry, Dr. J.G. Bhatt, Veterinary Officer, Mr. Saji Mathew, Hatchery Assistant, I.P.D.B., Baroda for their help and cooperation.

I am grateful to UGC-DSA programme for granting me the scholarship supporting the research discussed herein.

I am indebted to my affectionate parents, loving sister and family members whose sustained faith and trust inspired me a lot. Any attempt to thank them will always fall short.

I would particularly like to thank my sister in law Mrs. Kiran D. Acharya for her constant encouragement, inestimable advice and for being with me all throughout.

Harsha R. Acharya