

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Words are not adequate to express my deep sense of gratitude to my guide Dr.P.M.Ambadkar, Professor and Head, Department of Zoology for his constant encouragement, guidance and assistance in undertaking and completion of this study.

I further express my sincere appreciation of constant assistance and encouragement given by Dr.E.V.Shah, former Head Department of Zoology, and a teacher who initiated many of us in the field of Zoology.

I also wish to express my gratitude to the Dean, Faculty of Science, Dr.V.M.Shah, for his assistance and encouragement.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Dr.B. Pilo, Dr.A.V.Ramechandran, Dr.G.K.Menon, Dr.(Miss) M.V. Asnani and Dr.(Miss) N.F.Gangaremani, my teachers, for their timely suggestions and co-operation. I am also thankful to my colleagues Dr.(Mrs.) P.H.Parikh and Dr.(Miss) M.M.Patel for their assistance and encouragement during the preparation of this thesis.

I am grateful to all my teachers and colleagues, for the help rendered, directly or indirectly, in preparation of this thesis.

The present study was undertaken during the tenure of Jr.Research fellowship, awarded by the University Grants Commission, Government of India.

Finally, I am thankful to my parents for their constant encouragement.

Dt.26-7-1987.

MISS KETAKI J.DERASARI