With deepest love and respect.

То,

My parents,

There are three degrees of filial piety. The highest is being a credit to our parents, the second is not disgracing them; the lowest is being able simply to support them.

- Confucius.

## AND

Teacher Dr. A. V. Ramachandran. A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.

## Certificate

This is to certify that the work embodied in the present thesis is a bonafide work of the candidate carried out in the Department of Zoology, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Baroda.

Candidate ANJU KURUP

Guiding Teacher

Dr. A. V. Ramachandran