
A c k n o w l e d g e m e n t s

I owe a debt of gratitude to those who were so generous with their time and expertise.

Invaluable assistance and encouragement of many people have gone into the making of this thesis, but it is Dr. A. V. Ramachandran, Professor, Department of Zoology, The M. S. University of Baroda, guide extraordinaire, that I am most deeply indebted and whom I must thank first for introducing me to the delights of the subject and inculcating a scientific temper, he asked questions that made me think. Also, for four years of understanding and kindness, who so patiently and cheerfully, wheedled, cajoled and coaxed me into finishing the thesis on time.

I would also like to greatly acknowledge Dr. Bonny Pilo, Professor of Zoology, Head, Department of Zoology, The M. S. University of Baroda, for providing necessary facilities needed for the completion of this investigation.

I owe special thanks to Dr. R. V. Shah, Professor, and former Head, Department of Zoology, The M. S. University of Baroda, for his invaluable suggestions and for sharing his vast knowledge.

Also my sincere thanks to Prof. P. M. Ambadkar, Prof. A. K. Desai, Dr. R. V. Nene and Dr. M. V. Asnani for taking keen interest to know how things are coming along.

Thanks are also due to my seniors, Dr. M. M. Patel, Dr. D. N. Prasad, Dr. Anuresh Sharma and Mr. R. K. Sharma for getting me acquainted with the methodology and for the help rendered during the initial phase of my work.

I am blessed with wonderful friends who have never denied me their time, their advice, their help or their support. I am grateful to all of them but offer special thanks to Dr. Ami Raval, Mr. D. S. Dandekar, Mr. R. V. Devkar and Ms. Neelima Bhavsar, who diligently proof read major portion of the finished manuscript and saved me untold hours and many thanks to Ms. Sonali Barve for rendering help as and when solicited.

I owe a debt of gratitude to my parents, my sister, Asha and brothers, Anil and Atul, who have added immeasurably to my life. They have encouraged me in dark moments, laughed with me in bright ones, travelled with me to far places that would have been lonely without their companionship. Thank you, for being there.

Above and beyond, my heartfelt thanks to Abhishek, for making this world a beautiful place just by his presence.

Thanks are also due to the non-teaching staff, especially Mr. Shivprasad Kahar, Mr. P.M. Pandya, Dattubhai, Rajibhai, Shankerbhai, Shantarambhai, Sripadbhai, and Hajibhai, who were very forthcoming during my sojourn in the department.

My sincere thanks to Mr. Santosh for providing the animals as and when required.

Also : I wish to thank Ms. Varsha Mistry, Midea Point, for typing the long manuscripts, so meticulously and efficiently without apparent resentment and audible complaints and Mr. Manjit Banga, for his overall supervision and co-operation in making the presentation an aesthetically pleasant one.