ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my gratitude to Dr. A.R. Mehta for his invaluable advice and guidance during the course of investigation and preparation of the thesis.

Grateful acknowledgement is also made to Professor C.H. Pathak, Head, Department of Botany, for the facilities provided in the Laboratory.

I thank my research colleagues Mr. V.P. Fadia, Dr. S.N. Vajranabhaiah, Dr.(Miss) I.G. Lalchandani for their help and co-operation. I wish also to thank Mr. P.T. Dindorkar, Artist in the Department, for preparing the photographs and my thanks are due to Mr. D.M. Mohite for typing the thesis.

The research grants and Fellowship provided by the Gujarat State Industrial Research Committee, Ahmedabad, and the University Grants Commission, New Delhi, during the course of this project are gratefully acknowledged.