## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It gives me great pleasure to express my sincere gratitude to my guide Dr. K. S. Rao for encouraging me to take up this work

I also express my sincere thanks to Dr. G. P. Senan, Head Department of Botany, M. S. University of Baroda for all his help during the course of this study.

The help rendered by Prof. M. Daniel is also kindly acknowledged.

I extend grateful thanks to Dr D. K. Chakrabarty. A N D College, Faizabad, Dr. I. L. Kothari, Head Department of Bioscience, S P University, Vallabhvidhya Nagar, Dr Ashok Mishra, Department of Pathology, G A.U, Anand for their valuable suggestions.

My special thanks to Dr. R. D. Bhatt, Ex Head Department of Botany, The M. S. University of Baroda, for his sincere help and useful suggestions.

I am also thankful to I.C.A.R. New Delhi for financial help.

My heartfelt thanks are also due to all my teachers for their sincere . help, suggestions and encouragement.

I am thankful to Dr. P. N. Chaudhary and Dr. S Lal, I A R I., New Delhi and Dr. V. N. Rao, Agharkar Research Institute, Pune for conforming the identity of fungal cultures.

My special thanks to Mr. R. P. Shah, Supervisor of Central Fruit Nursery, Baroda for his co-operation during my field work.

I am thankful to my labmates and friends for their affectionate help and <sup>a</sup> assistance.

I also express my deep sense of gratitude to my parents, mother in law and all my family members for their full co-operation and good wishes

Special thanks to my husband Pratap Rajput and my children Rohan and Ishani for their constant support and encouragement during my work to achieve my goal.

Finally, I thank Mr. Harish Patel and his family for the excellent job for typing the thesis.

Phanhan

Rekha Chauhan