

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is a matter of great privilege and pleasure to record my profound gratitude to Dr. P.N. Bhatt, Reader in Dept. of Botany, M. S. University of Baroda for his guidance and creative criticism enriched in the quality of scientific and methodological components.

I am equally indebted to Prof. A.R. Mehta, who as head and UGC-DRS Project Co-ordinator of the Department, graciously extended to me all the facilities. His constant encouragement, critical evaluations and expertise has helped me in many ways.

For providing plant materials and suggestions for the research, my thanks are also due to Dr. G.J. Patel, ex-project co-ordinator, Dr. B.G. Jaisani, project co-ordinator and Dr. S.J. Patel, plant pathologist of Bidi Tobacco Research Station, Gujarat Agricultural University, Anand.

I take this opportunity to thank Dr. (Mrs.) D.P. Bhatt for her support and intellectual discussions during the course of this study as well as in the preparation of manuscript. Thanks are also due to Dr. Arun Arya for critically reading this manuscript.

My parents, a constant source of encouragement, prayed for my elevation and patiently waited to this stage deserve my deepest indebtedness. My sincere appreciation goes to my all colleagues and friends for their valuable assistance during the course of investigation.

Grateful acknowledgements are extended to Department Research Scheme from University Grants Commission, New Delhi for awarding fellowship.



(SELVAPANDIYAN)