ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to my respected guide Dr. (Mrs.) M. A. Padhya, Head Dept. of Botany for introducing the present topic for my research. I feel indebted to her for creative and precise criticism with constant encouragement which served as a source of inspiration to me during this work.

My sincere thanks goes to the former Heads of the Dept. Prof. S.

D. Sabnis, Prof. R. P. Bhatt and Prof. S. J. Bedi for providing me with adequate research facilities and guidance.

My special thanks are also extended to my husband Girish and to the rest of my family members for their moral support and helping me to fulfil my work. I also express my thanks to my parents for their encouragement during the period of my work.

It gives me pleasure to express my thanks to Dr. Neeta Shrivastava for all the help rendered during this investigation. I also acknowledge my other colleague Miss; Pratima Shrivastava for her help during the course of work.

My acknowledgements goes to Mr. Ramanbhai Patel and Mr. Ravi Dindorkar for photography. My sincere thanks to Mr. Anil Barbhaya and Miss Pragna Muley from Dongre Associates for excellent typing.

Last but not the least I express my thanks to all the staff members of Department and to all my friends who helped me in many ways.

っ

Date: 16.5.96

ARUNA JOSHI