

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is indeed with a deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness that I express my sincere and heartfelt thanks to Dr. P. M. Ambadkar, Professor of Zoology, Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, M. S. University of Baroda, Baroda for the suggestion of the problem. The final form and substance of the thesis are the result of his inspiring guidance, suggestions, constant encouragement, constructive criticism and sound advice, apart from the devotion of his valuable time. All these factors have contributed to the successful completion of the thesis.

I would like to thank Dr. Bonny Pilo, Professor and Head, Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, M. S. University of Baroda, Baroda for providing laboratory facilities, during the tenure of the present investigation. It is my pleasure to thank Dr. A. K. Desai and Dr. A. V. Ramachandran for their constant encouragement during the tenure of my work.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Dr. (Mrs.) S. J. Killedar for giving me technical suggestions and help during the course of my work.

My thanks are also due to my friends Dr. (Mrs.) Dipti Prasad, Mr. Lalchand Wagh and Miss. Daksha Parmar for their valuable help and encouragement throughout the work. Thanks are due to my junior colleagues Ms. Anju, Mr. Devkar and Mr. Dandekar for the help rendered in one way or the other in preparation of the thesis.

Thanks are also due to all my teachers and non-teaching staff members who have rendered timely help during the present study.

I gratefully acknowledge the financial support from Govt. of Gujarat by way of award of Research Fellowship (91-94) during the tenure of which the present investigation was carried out.

I am indebted to my parents, bhabhi and bhai for the moral support and constant encouragement all throughout the course of present study.