

I am lucky enough to have Dr. Dolly Kumar as my guide. I express my sincere gratitude towards her for the inspiring guidance, thought provoking ideas and motivation during this study. Her unconditional and dedicated guidance throughout the tenure of the work will always be cherished.

My sincere thanks to Prof. A.V. Ramachandran, Head, Department of Zoology, Dean, Faculty of Science, M.S. University of Baroda for providing necessary departmental facilities from time to time.

My sincere thanks and heartfelt respect to Prof. Bonny Pilo for his valuable discussions and comments and also for constant encouragement throughout my research work.

My special gratitude to Dr. N. S. Rathore, Zoological Survey of India, Jodhpur; (Rajasthan) who introduced me to the field of Isoptera. His peer review and knowledge about the specimen helped me to confirm the taxonomic identification of the termite fauna.

I wish to express my deep appreciation and sincere thanks to Dr. S. F. Wesley and Dr. Justus Joshua (GUIDE) for inestimable advice, comments and continued support during the progress of writing this Thesis. My thanks also extend to the Dr. V. Vijaykumar and Dr. Pankaj Joshi (GUIDE) for their moral support.

At the Department of Zoology, M.S.University of Baroda many people have been of great help to me. My thanks to Dr. Pragna Parikh for the moral support she always gave me. I also extend my thanks to Dr. B. Suresh for his valuable comments and advice from time to time. I would like to thank my friend M.S. Shivakumar for always being there with me. My special thanks to Mrs. Archana Mishra for solving the problem of taking photographs of my tiny termites. I also

thank Mrs. Bhumika Naidu, Pratyush Patankar and Premendrasingh Sisodia for helping me in the last stage of my work.

I express my thanks to Dr. Q.H. Baqri, Dr. Padma Bohra, Dr. Sangeev Kumar, Dr. Ram Sewak, Surgeetsingh Mertia, Sanjay Das, Vivek kumar Pandey, Miss Vinita Sharma, Miss. Madhumita, Mrs. Neena Tak, Mrs. Vinu and other staff from Zoological Survey of India, Jodhpur, Rajasthan for their encouragement and help.

I would like to thank my friends, S. Rajendrakumar, Himani Kala, Mrs. Jagruti from Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology (GUIDE), Bhuj (Gujarat) for helping me in many ways.

I would like to extend my thanks to Mr. Hukamsingh Rathore and Mr. Surendrasingh Rathore (Mamaji) for their kind assistance in my strenuous field work.

Finally, I am indebted to my parents, sister and brother for their invaluable moral and material support and encouragement in my academic progress.

Last but not the least, I wish to express special thanks to my wife Nitu and daughter Rutika, for letting me put my studies ahead of the need to spend time with them.

Lastly my heartfelt gratitude and remembrance to Late Prof. N. Radhakrishnan for the taxonomic knowledge I gained from him.