

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the very beginning, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to my honorable guide Dr. Pradeep C. Mankodi, Professor, Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara for providing me the flow of guidance, moral support, and constant encouragement and to lead this research in successful way.

I am thankful to Offg. Head, Department of Environmental Studies, Faculty of Science, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara for providing me full support for giving me required permissions and laboratory facilities. I am grateful to all the teachers and non-teaching staff members of my department for their support.

I am also thankful to the Head, Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara for providing me the laboratory facilities. I am also grateful to all the teachers and non-teaching staff members of Zoology department for their support during my Ph.D. tenure.

I am grateful to the Mr. T. P. Singh, Director, Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N), Gandhinagar for giving me the fellowship and working facility at BISAG-N. I am also thankful to staff of BISAG-N for their constant support.

I am also thankful to Dr. M.H. Kalubarme, Project director, Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N) for providing me guidance though out my Ph.D.

I would like to thank Mr. Nilesh bela, RFO, Narara, for giving me the opportunity to visit the Narara reef and providing the field guide during my study.

I would also like to thank Mr. Sunil for giving me the privilege to explore the reef of Poshitra and also for his guidance during my field work.

I am thankful to my senior research scholars Dr. Pinal Shah, Dr. Kangkan Sarma, Dr. Nevy Thakkar, Dr. Khushali Pandya, Dr. Manthan Tailor and Mr. Parth Prajapati for giving me great support during the beginning of my research work also providing me constant help and support.

I am heartily grateful to my junior research scholars Mrs. Niketa Bhatt, Ms. Gazala Sheikh, Ms. Asmita Chavda, Ms. Pooja Agravat, Mr. Ajay Baldaniya, Mr. Dhaval Bhatt, Mr. Hardik Gosai for providing me constant support and motivation.

I would like to show my deepest appreciation to Ms. Foram Jadeja, Ms. Honey Parikh and Mrs. Barkha Purohit for being my support system throughout my Ph.D.

Lastly but not the least, My parents, Mr. Karanubha Jadeja and Mrs. Padma Jadeja, My siblings cum friends, Ms. Foram Jadeja and Mr. Rajdeep Jadeja – my family, without you all I would not have been able to reach here. You all have been there for me through all of my good and bad. I cannot be any more grateful than you being in my life.