ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and deep sense of gratitude to my esteemed research guide Dr. Bonny Pilo, Professor, Department of Zoology Faculty of Science, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara, for his constant inspiration, valuable suggestion, excellent guidance, constant support, critical comments, explicit versatile advice, unending readiness and his excellent scholastic attitude during the present course of investigation and in preparation of this manuscript.

I am very much thankful to the management of Jai Research Foundation (JRF) for providing the necessary facility to carry out my research work. My sincere thanks are due to Dr. K.S. Rao, Ex-Director, Jai Research Foundation for the support provided.

I extend my sincere thanks to The Head, Department of Zoology for the necessary support and facilities.

I record my profound gratitude to Dr. B. Suresh for his keen interest and constant inspiration. I also thank Dr. C.S. Shekar, Dr. Prashant, Dr. J.J. Bhelonde, Mr. Pankaj Dwivedi, Mr. Pratyush and others for all the support they had given during the course of the study.

I thank Dr. Sharad K Sharma, Mr. B.H. Shekar, Mr. R. J. Sanjaya, Dr. S. Rajendren, Mr. K.N. Onkarappa, Mr. M. Rajappa and Mr. S.D. Parameswarappa for their enthusiasm and timely help and by providing valuable suggestions.

Heartfelt thanks are due to friends and colleagues, whose constant assistance and timely help at each step, led to the successful completion of this project.

I acknowledge my indebtedness to my father (Mr. D. M. Eswarappa), mother (Smt. Sarojamma), my brother (Mr. Swamy E), sister in law (Smt. Pushpa Swamy) and Sister (Smt. Kalpana E) and my family members for the support provided.

I thank my beloved wife (Mrs. Sheela Rajesh), my lovely daughter (Priya R. Anepla) and my lovely son (Aditya R. Anepla) with deep sense of gratitude for the moral strength and support provided.

Above all, I thank MATA DYAMALAMBA who has carried me successfully through the venture by giving the wisdom, strength and courage.

(RAJESH E)