

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This investigation was carried out in the Department of Botany, M.S.University of Baroda. Professor R.P.Bhatt, my guide and Head of the Department is acknowledged for the critical reviewing of all chapters and for leaving me all freedom to exploit my drives of scientific curiosity.

Professor J.J.Shah supervised me during this study. Dear Sir, I am very thankful that I had the opportunity to get you known as a person, mentor, and scientist. The six years we shared our thoughts will leave many lasting impressions on me. I regard myself fortunate to be educated by you, profitting from your creative scientific imagination and elaborate discussions of methodological aspects of 'scientific enterprise'.

A great many other people have contributed to this investigation by giving all kinds of help. Professor A.R.Mehta and Professor S.D.Sabnis, former Heads of the department, Dr.G.M.Nair, formerly Lecturer in this department were few among them. I owe them all a debt of gratitude.

The generosity with which my colleagues Mrs. Susy Albert, Mr.T.Srinivas and friends Messrs. B.Anoop Kumar, David Saj Mathew, K.Gangadhar, P.C.Josekutty, G. Pradeep Kumar, P.K.Pradeep, Saji Oommen, Sam, S.K.Unnikrishnan, and K.R.Vinod chipped in with practical help with experiments or otherwise, by reviewing chapters or by providing me with stimulating ideas facilitated the work much.


Thanks are due to my parents, brothers and sister for keen interest and financial support.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to Professor P.V.Madhusoodanan and family for much help and encouragement during misfortune.

This work started on a research grant from University Grants Commission, New Delhi. On this grant I carried on the project for 34 months. Thanks to Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi for providing me a Senior Research Fellowship, during this period I continued the work doing series of important final investigations.

Finally, I thank Mr. & Mrs.Titus for neat and efficient typing.

Baroda  
26 August 1993.

  
V. K. Murukesan