

A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

I wish to express my indebtedness and deep sense of gratitude to Professor Atul R. Mehta, Head, Department of Botany, The M. S. University of Baroda, Baroda, for making the present research endeavour possible. His guidance and creative criticism enriched the quality of scientific and methodological components and I extend my sincere gratitude to him for introducing me into this interesting field of study.

Grateful acknowledgement is also made to Professor C. H. Pathak, former Head of the Department, for providing adequate laboratory facilities.

I am deeply indebted to my senior colleagues :
Dr. (Late) V. P. Fadia, Dr. (Mrs.) M. A. Padhya,
Dr. P. H. Bhatt, Dr. R. R. Shah, Dr. S. K. Rawal,
Dr. Shailaja Rao and Dr. G. A. Ravishankar for their friendly intellectual discussions and criticism that has encouraged me in many ways.

Thanks are due to Messrs. Thomas, V., G. R. Nambiar and C. E. Muralidhar for their assistance in various matters. Help from Miss Usha Verma, Rajiv Lall, Sreedhar and Dr. (Miss) Harsha Desai in preparation of this thesis is gratefully acknowledged.

I wish to express my profound sense of gratitude to my parents and brothers who have been a constant source of inspiration and encouragement. I am grateful to my wife for her great fortitude, support and sacrifice without which, this work would never have been completed.

I wish to thank Mr. P. S. Bhoite for typing this manuscript neatly and Mr. P. T. Dindorkar for his assistance in photography.

Grateful acknowledgement is made to University Grants Commission, New Delhi for providing financial assistance during the entire course of this work.

P. B. Kavi Kishore

P. B. Kavi Kishore.