

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am in duty bound to record my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. J. C. George, Professor of Zoology, M. S. University of Baroda, for the suggestion of the problem and also for ^{his} the constant guidance and encouragement, ^{without} but for which this work would not have been completed. I am ^{also} deeply indebted to Dr. N. B. Bhatt and his colleagues, Mr. S. C. Jaswal and Mr. V. C. Patel of the Department of Statistics, for expert assistance in the statistical presentation of the results in Chapters 4 and 5, and ^{to} Dr. Suresh Sethna of the Chemistry Department for the generous hospitality extended to me for making use of some of the instruments in his laboratory, and to his colleagues, Mr. A. N. Godbole and Mr. S. S. Lele, for their never failing technical assistance. It is ^a pleasure to thank all my colleagues in the department ^{of Zoology?} who have helped me in various ways in the preparation of this thesis. Finally, I thank the Ministry of Education, Government of India, for supporting this work by awarding me a Senior Research Scholarship for three years.