

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude and indebtedness to Dr. R.V. Shah, Professor and Head, Department of Zoology, M.S. University of Baroda, Baroda, for the kind suggestion of the problem and his ceaseless and valuable guidance and inspiring encouragement during the whole tenure of the present work.

My sincere thanks are also due to Dr. Bonny Pilo for his ungrudging and constructive assistance which has contributed greatly towards the successful completion of the present study.

Finally, it is my pleasure to thank all my colleagues and friends in the department for rendering all possible help and cooperation in the preparation of the present thesis.