

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It gives me a great pleasure to record my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. J. C. George, Professor and Head of the Department of Zoology, M. S. University of Baroda, for the suggestion of the problem and for the constant guidance and encouragement, without for which this work would not have been completed. I am indebted to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India, for awarding me a Junior Research Fellowship, during the tenure of which this work was conducted. My sincere thanks are also, due to Professor N. M. Bhatt and his colleagues of the Department of Statistics, for the statistical evaluation of the results presented in this thesis. Finally it is a pleasure to thank all my colleagues in the department who have helped me in various ways in the preparation of this thesis.