ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to Dr. P. Daniel, Deputy Director, BSI, Coimbatore, for suggesting the problem, constant encouragement and guidance throughout; the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India, for a fellowship; Dr. P.K. Hajra, formerly Director of Biosphere Reserves, Ministry of Environment & Forests, later Director, BSI, Calcutta, for his interest in the work and encouragement; Dr. V.J. Nair, formerly Deputy Director, BSI, Cóimbatore for facilities, confirming certain grass novelties and providing most Latin diagnoses; Dr. P. Venu, Scientist SE, BSI, Coimbatore, for his invaluable help in various ways and encouragement; Drs. D.H. Nicolson ((US), M. Sanjappa (CAL) and P. Dayanandan, Head, Department of Botany, Madras Christian College, for photocopies of literature; Dr. S.K. Murti, then Indian Liaison Officer (K), and the Director (K), for photocopies of literature and photographs of some types/authentic specimens; Dr. H.J. Noltie (E), for photocopies of literature and some types; Drs. A. Paton (K) and T. Cope (K), for confirming some novelties and Dr. M.Y. Ansari, formerly at BSI, for his considered opinion on Ceropegia material; the Directors/Curators/Officers-in-charge of B, G, PDA, BSJO, PCM, RHT, herbaria of Bharathiar University and Kongu Nadu Arts & Science College, for sending certain specimens on loan/confirming the identity of some material/permission to consult herbarium; Dr. S.J. Britto, Principal, St. Joseph's College, Trichy, for some Latin diagnoses; the Wildlife Warden, Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve, Ramanathapuram and other staff of the Tamil Nadu State Forest Department at Mandapam, Keelakarai and Tuticorin for help and cooperation during explorations; Officer-in-charge, CMFRI, Mandapam, Mr. Russel Motha, Tuticorin, Mr. A. Rajamarthandam, Head, Dept. of Botany and the Principal, Aditanar College of Arts & Science, Tiruchendur and Dr. A.D. Sobhanaraj, Head, Dept. of Botany, Scott Christian College, Nagercoil, for their generous help during explorations; Drs. N.P. Balakrishnan, E. Vajravelu and A.N. Henry, formerly Joint Directors, Dr. G.V.S. Murthy, Scientist SE, BSI, Coimbatore, for their keen interest and encouragement; Messrs. K. Vivekananthan and N.C. Rathakrishnan, formerly Scientists B and M.S. Swaminathan, Botanist, BSI, Coimbatore, for help and encouragement; Mrs. C.P. Malathi, Sci. Asst. and Messrs. A.T. Durgadas, R. Suresh and K. Sivanandan, Artist and Senior Artists respectively, BSI, Coimbatore, for the illustrations; Mrs. G. Geethalakshmi, Data Entry Operator, for her expert computing; Mr. N.G.R. Nair and Mrs. Esther John, Stenographers, BSI, Coimbatore, for their expert typing of the manuscript; my former colleagues Mr. K. Sampath Kumar and Dr. S.A. Muthukumar,
and Dr. J.G. Thiyagaraj, Dept. of Botany, St. John College, Palayamkottai and Dr. D. Jawahar, Agricultural College & Research Institute, Killikulam, Tuticorin Distr., for keeping their collections at my disposal; Sr. Grace, Principal, St. Joseph's Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Hosur, for encouragement; fellow-students Misses K. Sasikala, Sharmila Thomas and M. Reema Kumari, for help in various ways; Mr. A. Michaelraj, for his everwilling help and finally to the members of my own family for their unstinted help, cooperation and above all their constant and continued encouragement which I needed most.