ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Inspirations go a long way in transforming an effort into an accomplishment. This research work is the outcome of myriad noble gestures that have flown on my way.

Foremost I am sincerely indebted to my research guide Dr. Bhagya M., Associate Professor, Department of Studies in Zoology, University of Mysore, Manasagangotri, Mysore for the remarkable kindness exhibited in accepting me as a research student and for her unstinted guidance which has been instrumental in bringing forth this research work.

My sincere gratitude to my co-guide Prof. S. N. Hegde, Professor and Former Chairman, Department of Studies in Zoology, University of Mysore, Manasagangotri, Mysore for his par excellent guidance and for being compatible in field work, for the monumental magnanimity displayed in every phase of this research work.

I wish to thank Prof. V.A. Vijayan, Chairman, Department of Studies in Zoology, University of Mysore, Manasagangotri, Mysore, for providing facilities and guidance when ever required.

I acknowledge the support of all previous Chairpersons of Department of Studies in Zoology, Prof. S.R. Ramesh, Prof. Shivabasavaiah, Prof.Prakash R.Naik, Prof. Sadananda Yemakanamaradi
and Prof. S.N. Hegde by providing facilities and guidance. I am also thankful to all members of the Board of Studies in Zoology and members of the Doctoral Committee for their valuable suggestions and constructive criticisms which made the thesis most perfect. I am also thankful to all faculty members of the Department for their timely help and suggestions. My thanks are also due to all the office staff and other non-teaching staff of DOS in Zoology.

I acknowledge with immense gratitude the timely support extended by research scholars of the Department of Zoology, especially Miss. Divya D., Mr. Santhosh, Dr. S.P. Vasudeva, Dr. Ivan Aranha.

I am sincerely indebted to the Commissioner, Pre-University Board Bangalore for the noble act of sanctioning me permission to facilitate my research work.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Chief Wildlife Warden, Department of Forests, Government of Karnataka, for giving me permission to enter into Bhadra sanctuary and to collect the scientific data from the field. I am also thankful to all the Officers of the Territorial and Wildlife Forest divisions of Chikamagalur District for helping me in collecting the data. I am greatly indebted to Mr. Girish, and his team of volunteers, who helped me to collect the information from field.
The inspiration and moral support bestowed on me by my family is pivotal in the successful completion of this study. I acknowledge with gratitude the support of my husband Mr. Uthaiah, daughter Dr. Sowmya and my son Mr. Sachin Poovaiah and my sister-in-law Prof. Bharathi Madappa and family members. I am indebted to all my friends, in particular Ms. Poovamma and Mr. Lingaraju, Dr. Krishnamurthy, Assistant Professor, Forestry College, Ponnampet, Kodagu, Dr. Mohan, Professor, Agricultural Research Station, Ponnampet, Kodagu and well wishers for being with me whenever I needed them the most.

I whole heartedly thank the press ‘Softouch’ Mysore for the meticulous and elegant work of printing and binding.

BHAVANI K. M.