ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I owe my whole hearted thanks to Almighty, for his abundant blessings.

I have the privilege to express my deep admiration, profound sense of reverence and gratitude to Dr. S. K. Barthakur, Professor and former Head, Department of Botany for his inspiring guidance, calm endurance, supportive attitude and supervision throughout the course of the investigation as well as preparation of this manuscript. His dynamic dissensions coupled with befitting counsel nurtured in me the zeal to work and the will for improvement.

I extend my deep sense of gratitude for supportive guidance showered by Dr. R. Chakravorty, former Director, Central Muga Eri Research and Training Institute, Central Silk Board, Lahdoigarih, Jorhat for his constant support, counseling and encouragement during the tenure of this study. Without his full fledged cooperation, able guidance and valuable suggestions, my efforts would have remained incomplete.

I express my gratefulness to the Vice Chancellor, Gauhati University for providing permission in carrying out the present investigation.

I am also grateful to all the teachers of the Department of Botany for their valuable advices. Grateful thanks are due to the Head, Department of Botany for providing the necessary facilities in carrying out the present study.

I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt indebtedness and thanks to Dr. R. K. Rajan, Dr. Anukul Barah, Dr. Khageswar Das, Mrs. Mamoni Senapati, Mr. Kartik Neog, Dr. M. C. Sarmah, Mr. M. Sankar and all my colleagues of CMER&TI, Lahdoigarih whose zeal and enthusiasm lifted my spirit during the course of study. I am also thankful to all staff members especially Ms. Nilima Dutta, Ms. Bulumoni Saikia and Mr. Keshab Kalita for their co-operation and help.
I find no word to appreciate the field staff especially Sri. N. K. Rahman, Sri Thagiram Saikia and Sri. Haren Bora for their brotherly behave and help rendered as and when needed.

Indeed the words at my command are inadequate to express my deep and heartfelt feeling towards the critical role played by my life partner ‘kalyan’ and life hope ‘Reeti’ and “Kuki” for their love, inspiration, moral support and encouragement to get the target materialized.

It is the personal touch of emotions, that I seize the opportunity to express my heart felt and affectionate gratitude to my Father in law Sri. Chittaranjan Pathak, Mother-in-law Mrs. Debala Pathak, Father Late D. Hazariha, Mother-Mrs. Jogada Hazariha, elder brother Late Pankaj Hazariha, elder brother in law Dr. Krishna Pathak, Sister-in-law Ms. Pinaki Pathak, younger brother in law Bubul Siva uncle, Puspa uncle, Bina and Beauty aunty, younger brother and sister in law Babu and Kakali, Kaku and Rokha, Jintu and Barnali, Papu and Mukheswar for their loving encouragement and moral support in every step of my life.

Award of study leave by Central Silk Board, Bangalore authority is duly acknowledged.

Great appreciations and thanks to Shri Pronab Sharma, Proprietor, Eeshan Printers, Jorhat for printing of the manuscript. Last but not least, I record my sincere thanks to all beloved and respected people who helped me but could not find separate mention.

Place: Guwahati
Date: 26.12.11

(Urmimala Hazariha)