ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish here, to express my profound gratitude to my teacher and guide Dr. G.V. Patil, M.Sc., Ph.D. (Nag.), F.B.S., F.Pa.S., F.Pb.S. Ex Vice-Chancellor, Amravati University, Amravati for the invaluable guidance and constant inspiration bestowed upon me throughout the course of the work.

I am highly indebted to Dr. D.R. Shekhawat, President, Vidyabharati Shaikshanik Mandal, Amravati and Ex Principal, Vidyabharti Mahavidyalaya, Amravati for his kind permission to undertake the research activity. I am thankful to Dr. K.N. Patil, Principal, Vidyabharti Mahavidyalaya, Amravati for his cooperation and constant encouragement.

I would like to record my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. U.S. Chaudhari, Professor and Head, Department of Botany, Amravati University, Amravati for the necessary facilities. I am thankful to Dr. A.J. Dixit, Reader and Head, Department of Botany, Vidyabharti Mahavidyalaya, Amravati for his understanding and kind co-operation. I am sincerely thankful to Dr. S.V. Gudadhe, Reader and Head; and Dr. S.R. Akarte, Lecturer, Department of Zoology, Vidyabharti Mahavidyalaya, Amravati for providing facilities of photography unit. I also extend my sincere thanks to Dr. V.R. Deshmukh, Lecturer in Botany, and my all other colleagues in Vidyabharti Mahavidyalaya, Amravati.

I owe special thanks to the authorities of R.S I.C., Nagpur for scanning electron microscopy and photography. Thanks are also due to Dr. Radke, Department of Entomology, Agriculture College, Nagpur.

I am deeply grateful to Dr. (Mrs.) P.Y. Bhogaonkar, Reader in Botany, Vidarbha Mahavidyalaya, Amravati for providing the required literature and putting significant suggestions. My sincere thanks to Ku. S.R. Kadu, Mrs. N.S. Pandharikar, Dr. S.R. Manik, Dr. G.N. Wankhede, Dr. B.B. Kadu, Dr. P.A. Wadegaonkar, Dr. Milind Jagtap and Dr. (Mrs.) S.R. Nair for their sincere help in completion of this work.

I am also thankful to R.D. Khandare, B.G. Ghebad, H.H. Sahu, G.O. Shekhawat, R.S. Medhe and A.M. Chaukade the laboratory staff in college. Thanks are also due to Shri Ganage for his assistance in the typing of this thesis.

This work owes a great deal of indebtedness, to my family, friends and well wishers. Last but not the least I would like to express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to my parents, my wife Sou. Anita and daughter Ku. Kalyani whose inspiration and help enabled me to complete this work.

Amravati
Dated: 30.01.99

Jaykiran A. Tidke