ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Interdependence is certainly more valuable than independence. During my research work I have been accompanied and supported by many people. It is a pleasant aspect that I have now opportunity to express my gratitude to all those who gave me the possibility to complete this dissertation.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to my guide, Dr. S. S. Kamble, M. Sc., Ph. D., Head, Department of Botany, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, for his inspiration, invaluable guidance and supervision throughout the course of this investigation.

I am highly obliged to extend my gratitude towards Prof. B. A. Karadge, Prof. P. D. Chavan, Prof. G. B. Dixit, Prof. S. R. Yadav, Dr. A. B. Sable, Dr. M. M. Dongare, Dr. N. S. Chavan, Dr. D. K. Gaikwad, Dr. V. S. Rathod, Dr. N. B. Gaikwad, Dr. R. V. Gurav, Dr. K. B. Pawar, Dr. Swarupa Ghadge and Mr. Manoj Lekhak for their excellent guidance and support throughout the research work.

I am also thankful to Research Assistant Dr. (Mrs.) S.F. Fernandis, Sr. Clerk Mr. Pandit J. Maralkar and all the non-teaching staff, Department of Botany, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, for their co-operation.

I am greatful to Principal, all teaching and non teaching staff of Dept. of Botany, Yashawantrao Chavan Institute of Science, Satara.

I also place on record my thanks to Dr. Vandana B. Patil, Miss Aruna M. Mali, Miss Firdose Kolar, Dr. Anil A. Jagtap, Miss Megha J. Mane, Miss Kranti B. Patil and Dr. Sharvari B. More, Miss Archana A. Inamdar and Mr. Kedar R. Hogale and all my colleagues in the Dept. of botany, Shivaji University, Kolhapur

I am very thankful to Mr. Kiran Daphale and all the members of Netfly cyber planet for their continuous technical support.

My special thanks to 1811 Lt regiment of Indian Army and Capt. Dhananjay for their help during collection in J&K and excellent moral support.

I will be failing my duties if I forgot to acknowledge the blessings of my parents Mr. Raghunath Apte and Mrs. Swati Apte, my brother Prashant Apte, Mrs. Priya, Omi and Munnya
who has always been a source of inspiration to me. Their love and encouragement made this undoubting task, a reality.

Miss Ashwini Raghunath Apte.