ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to the authors and scientists whose work provided a valuable source of information and inspiration in understanding the present work.

It is my proud privilege to express thanks to my supervisor Dr. R.R.Dhande, Ex. Prof & Head, Post Graduate Department of Zoology, Amravati University, for his constant encouragement inspiration, guidance untiring help and fruitful discussions throughout the course of my research work.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. G.N.Vankhede, Reader and Head, Post Graduate Department of Zoology, Amravati University, Amravati, for valuable suggestions and help that served milestone in conducting this research work.

I must put on record, my words of thanks to Dr. Mrs. C.K.Deshmukh, Lecturer, Department of Zoology for extending cordial co-operation.

I wish to express my special thanks to research fellows Shri. S.S. Deshpande and Mrs. N.V. Bhatkar and research colleagues Shri. G.A. Wagh, Shri. K.B. Sangve, Shri. R.L. Rahatgaonkar, Mrs. D.S.Kulkarni, Mrs. M.P. Kalele, Mrs. S.R.Katke for the co-operation in the work and proof reading of the manuscript.
My sincere thanks to my parents Mr. Wamanrao Deshmukh; Mrs. Prabhatai Deshmukh and mother-in-law Ms. Vimalta Deshmukh who always inspired me. Their well wishes, support and encouragement helped me in successfully achieving this goal. Also, I would like to acknowledge the support lend by other family members, who awaited the completion of this work with eagerness.

Encouragement by my husband, Dr. Shivaji, his co-operation and enormous faith made me achieve this scientific endeavour. I also want to take a chance to give a credit to my kids, Shivneri, Sharwari and Shahu.

I sincerely thanks Mrs. C. M. Barbade of M.C.M. Computer, Amravati for neat and tidy data processing and printing of this thesis.

(Mrs. U. S. Deshmukh)