ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

No word is sufficient to express adequately my deep sense of gratitude and regards to my respected teacher and guide Professor A K Hati, Head, Department of Medical Entomology and Chairman, Division of Parasitology, Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine, for providing me the opportunity to work under his supervision. It was his constructive criticism, scientific appreciation and constant encouragement which went a long way towards the completion of the study.

I hesitate to acknowledge my debt to Professor A B Choudhury, Emeritus Scientist (Medical), Indian Council of Medical Research and formerly the Director, Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine, with mere thanks for being with me all along with constant encouragement and blessings of a father.

I am indebted to Professor P C Sengupta, one of the most familiar names in the field of kala-azar and retired Professor of Pathology in the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta, who, in spite of his ill health, has always inspired me with his sound creative suggestions and constructive criticisms replete with prudence and experience. I acknowledge my gratitude to him.

To Professor N N Sen, Director, School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta and J B Chatterjee Professor of Haematology, Department of Haematology, School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta, my thanks are due for the facilities given to me to work in his School.

I am indebted to Dr A K Mitra, formerly Director of the Serologist & Chemical Examiner to the Government of India, Calcutta, for training and guidance in the field of bloodmeal analysis and to Dr S Das, Head of the Department of Zoology, M. U. C. Women's College, Burdwan, West Bengal, for imparting necessary expertise in histology and histochromistry. I have also received helpful encouragement, from time to time, from Dr A K Bandopadhyay, Lecturer and Head of the Department of Helminthology; from Dr Arati Chatterjee, Demonstrator of the same Department and also from Dr Neelam Tandon, Lecturer, Department of Medical Entomology, School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta, for which I remain thankful. I mention with gratitude the names of Sri Farha Bhowmick, Statistician, All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, for assistance in statistical analysis of the data; of Sri Subir Paul for supplying me with designs and photographs; of Sri Dilip Mondal, Zoologist, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, for helping to collect valuable references; Sri
Anil Chatterjee and Sri Debnarayan Konar for collecting wild-caught sandflies; of Sri K C Gupta, Sri S Sur and Sri N De for laboratory assistance; Mrs Anjali Moitra, Division of Parasitology, Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine and Sri Anil Mitra of the Academic Publishers for typographic assistance in the preparation of the manuscript. To the librarian and other technicians and assistants of the School, I am grateful for all of them have cooperated with me in their respective spheres.

I am grateful to my elder brother Sri Bimal Dhur for extending his help whenever necessary in relation to printing of my thesis.

Lastly, I must thank Dr Amitabha Nandy of the Division of Parasitology, School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta, for his all out help.

I also take this opportunity to thank my husband Dr Sunil Kumar Addy, FRCOG, for his keen appreciation of my zeal for research work. He has cooperated in all possible ways, as otherwise this work would not have been possible. In the end I remember with how much pathetic emotions my two daughters Anasuya and Sudakshina spared me from their mother's company, days in and days out, and which no words can compensate. If I have gained anything out of this work, it goes to their credit.

Finally, I acknowledge the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, for the financial support for carrying out this study.