Acknowledgements

First and foremost I thank Almighty Allah, who has helped in giving me enough strength and ability to accomplish this task.

I acknowledge, with all respect and regard to my supervisor Dr. Fareed Ahmad Khan, Associate Professor, Department of Botany for the help and guidance. His invaluable help, support and teaching shall remain the guiding force for the rest of my life.

I am highly thankful to Prof. Firoz Mohammad, Chairman, Department of Botany, Aligarh Muslim University, for providing the necessary facilities during the research work.

I extend my thanks and sense of gratitude to Dr. Shoeba B. Anis, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, for her encouragement and support in various ways.

I wish to ventilate my humble regards towards Prof. Mohd. Iqbal, Department of Botany Jamia Hamdard University and Prof. Irshad Mahmood, Dr. Athar A. Khan, Department of Botany for his kind help in various aspects.

I would like to place on record my profound thanks to Dr. Saeed Ahmad, Jamia Hamdard University, New Delhi for providing GC-MS facility and Dr. Iqbal Ahmad, Bhagalpur University, Bhagalpur, for identification of insects.

I am very thankful to Mr. S.M.A. Badruddin. He always had been a great help during the course of study.

Very special thanks to Dr. Aslam Khan Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, Al-Jazan University Saudi Arabia and Dr. Irshrat Husain, Department of Law, AM.U., Aligarh for their encouragement and support in various ways.

I am highly indebted to Mr. Mohd. Irfan, Mr. Mudassir, Mr. Muzzafar, Mr. Nadeem, Mr. Ashraf, Ms. Rubeena, Meenu Singh, Ms. Deepshikha, Dr. Abhishekh for their tiresome labour and sparing their valuable time for me during my compilation.

A special note of thanks to all my friends Zehra, Rose, Humera, Bushra, Rahat, Sheeba, Shweta, Maryam, Athar, Hilal, Meraj for encouragement and support in various ways.
I am thankful to my invaluable network of supportive, forgiving, generous, loving seniors and friends. Dr. Abid Ali Ansari, Dr. Farman-ur-Rehman Khan, Jyoti Varshney, Hina Irshad, M. Naeem, Asim, Safiuddin, Faisal, Sana, Nigar, Naushina, Kulsum, Hina, Gauhar, Kohkasha, Shania, Bushra, Kavita, Rumana, Saba, Seema and Neha. No words could adequately express all that my family members have done for me throughout my life. They have always been a source of inspiration, whose constant admonitions helped me in my academic pursuits.

I am sincerely behold to Mr. Rais A. Khan who very painstakingly worked despite his personal engagements.

I also acknowledge UGC New Delhi for providing the financial assistance as UGC Non-NET Fellowship, University Sophisticated Instrumentation Facility, AMU, Aligarh and AIIMS for providing SEM micrographs.

Farha Rehman