ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This thesis could not have seen the light of the day without the overriding guidance of Prof. K.R. Samaddar, Department of Botany, University of Kalyani. Right from suggesting the problem to the final stage of thesis preparation, he has just been valuable at all stages. The guidance offered by Dr. Dilip Gupta, Reader, Department of Botany, University of Kalyani was extremely helpful. My gratitude and veneration towards them cannot simply be recorded through words. I pay my obeisance to them.

The present and former Heads, Department of Botany, University of Kalyani by extending their help in administrative matters and laboratory facilities draw my gratitude and thanks. I will fail in my duty if I do not record my thanks to Dr. B.R. Maity for his help, whenever sought. I am also thankful to Dr. Chandan Sengupta and all the teachers of Botany Department for their constant encouragement.

Sri B. Chakraborty and my other lab mates and scholars occupy a place in my heart for their unflinching help and co-operation. Thanks, brothers and sisters.

I also extend my thanks to all departmental staff and laboratory assistants for their help. I would like to specially thank the person-in-charge of the Departmental library and the staff members of the Central library for their untiring assistance during the write-up of the thesis.

The author expresses her thanks to Dr. J.M. Young, Curator, ICMP, New Zealand for gifting, and IARI, New Delhi for providing, reference cultures. Thanks are also due to the authorities of Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyape­laya for providing access to their citrus orchard as well as meteorological data. The financial assistance extended by the University of Kalyani is gratefully acknowledged.

I express my gratitude to Dr. (Mrs.) S. Samaddar and Mrs. S. Gupta for their support.
The contributions of Sri Paritosh Dey in typing the thesis and Sri Goutam Mittra in drawing the figures deserve special mention and thanks.

Finally, my parents, for their sacrifice and forbearance, I have as usual, no words to thank them. My uncle has also played his part. My husband too deserves a mention here.

I sincerely apologize to a host of colleagues, officials, friends and relatives for my inability to name them individually in this space but my thanks do reach out to them.

Kalyani

Date: 2ND JANUARY, 1998.

Deepa Ganesh
(Deepa Ganesh)