ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

During the course of the present investigation I received help and assistance from many persons and to express my indebtedness to all of them individually seems impossible. However, I express my gratitude to the following persons in particular:-

- to Prof. M.A. Basir Khan, Head, Department of Zoology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for his generosity in allocating funds for the purchase of research material whenever required and for providing all possible facilities to me during my stay in the Department of Zoology;
- to my supervisor, Dr. S.Z. Qasim for his advice, guidance and many helpful suggestions during the course of the work and during the preparation of this thesis, despite his continued absence from the department;
- to Dr. Wasim A. Siddique for his collaboration in the work on protozoan parasites;
- to Mr. Z.A. Khan, Mr. Aleem, Mr. Abdullah, Mr. Taqvi and Miss Dipa Bhattarcharjee of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics for their help in statistical analysis of the data;
- and finally to all my colleagues and friends in the Department of Zoology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for their assistance whenever sought for.

As this thesis was brought to its form during my stay at the International Biological Programme, Ernakulam, I am much grateful to the staff of the IBP for their hospitality and help.