ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to my teacher, Dr. R. N. Gohil, Department of Botany, University of Kashmir, Srinagar, for guidance, help and encouragement throughout the course of this work.

I am grateful to Prof. P. Kachroo, ex-Head and Prof. V. Kaul, present Head, Department of Botany, University of Kashmir, Srinagar, for providing the laboratory facilities.

I also wish to record my thanks to Dr. A. R. Naqshi, Lecturer, Department of Botany, University of Kashmir, Srinagar, for help in identifying some of the plant materials.

I thank all my teachers and friends for their constant and valuable help.

Profound thanks are due to my parents, who encouraged me to take up this work.

Finally, I wish to record my thanks to the authorities of University Grants Commission and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi, for the financial help provided in the form of Junior and Senior Research Fellowships respectively.