ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It would not have been possible to write this doctoral thesis without the help and support of the kind people around me, to only some of whom it is possible to give particular mention here.

This thesis would not have been possible without the help, support and patience of my honorable guide and principal supervisor, Prof. Dr. Rahul Kundu, not to mention his advice and unsurpassed knowledge of comparative animal physiology particularly muscle physiology. It gives me great pleasure to express my deep sense of gratitude and obligation to him, under whose valuable guidance, keen interest, meticulous efforts and constant encouragement, the present assignment came to its successful end. The good advice, support and friendly nature of my supervisor has been invaluable on both an academic and a personal level, for which I am extremely grateful.

I am also grateful to the Prof. and Head of the department Dr. S. P. Singh for providing the necessary laboratory and departmental library facilities given during this work.

I would like to take the chance to offer my sincere gratitude to all the teaching and nonteaching staffs of my Department for their kind suggestions and encouragement during my work. I highly appreciate and record my thanks to all the staff members of the Department of Biosciences, Center of Advanced Studies (CAS). The help and services rendered by non-teaching staffs is worth mentioning. I thank all of them.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Human Resource Development Group (HRDG), Delhi for providing me financial support for this research under Award No: 09/151(0030)2009EMR-1 Dated 17th July 2009 through Junior Research Fellowship (NET) and Senior Research Fellowship schemes.
I would like to acknowledge the financial, academic and technical support of the Saurashtra University and its staffs, particularly in the award of a Postgraduate Research Studentship that provided the necessary financial support for this research. The library facilities (notably the vast & precious collections) and computer facilities of the University, as well as the Laboratory facilities, have been indispensable. I also thank the Department of Biosciences, Centre of Advanced Studies (CAS) Rajkot, Gujarat, for their support and assistance since the start of my postgraduate work in 2009, especially the Head of Department, Prof. S. P. Singh.

I owe sincere thanks to my friends; Ashok Vaghela, Dhruviga Kotadiya, Madhavi Thakar, Shweta Pathak, Jyoti Jigyasi, Dr. Jatin Raval, Paresh Poriya, Bhavik Vakani, Bhargavi Thaker and M.Sc. student; Sheetal Chitroda who helped me a lot, coming out of various errors and misconceptions and also for counseling throughout this work.

I owe my special thanks to my all family members i.e. my parents, grandparents, my sisters, my lovely daughter and specially my husband Mr. Rushikesh Joshi and my in-laws for their understanding, support and constant encouragement throughout my work. I am thankful to God for the abundant grace that he has bestowed upon me to finish my work and complete this thesis.

Last but by no means the least, how I could not mention those beautiful Chicks and Mice that had sacrificed their lives to make this work success and which have contributed the most in the welfare of the scientific society.

Date: (Mayalata Dimpal)

Place: Rajkot