ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my deep sense of gratitude to my guide Dr. S. R. Yadav, Professor, Department of Botany, Shivaji University for not only guiding me but also inciting my interest in the field of taxonomy.

I sincerely thanks to Prof. B. A. Karadge and Prof. G. B. Dixit former heads of Botany and Prof. S. S. Kamble present heads of Botany for providing the necessary laboratories facilities.

I am equally grateful to Dr. (Mrs.) U. S. Yadav, who has been continuous source of inspiration. She has provided fruitful suggestions and extended possible help to me through every phase of this work.

At the outset, I would like to thank teaching faculty of this department: Prof. P. D. Chavan, Prof. S. S. Kamble, Prof. Mrs. A. B. Sable, Dr. Mrs. M. M. Dongare, Dr. Mrs. N. S. Chavan, Dr. D. K. Gaikwad, Dr. R. V. Gurav, Dr. N. B. Gaikwad, Dr. Mrs. V. S. Rathod and Dr. Miss. K. B. Pawar whose suggestions were always useful to me.

I have also benefited by advice and guidance from Prof. M. K. Janarthanam and Dr. Krishnan, Department of Botany, Goa University, Goa.

I am extremely thankful to Dr. G. G. Potdar, Dr. C. B. Salunkhe, Dr. M. M. Sardesai, Dr. S. P. Gaikwad, Dr. V.B. Simple, Dr. Mayur Kamble, Jadhav kaka, Jadhav madam and Shreyash for the encouragement and support.

I am very much thankful to Dr. Mrs. Kavya Dashora, NBPG, Delhi; Dr. Chandansing Rajpurohit, Jodhpur; Dr. Mrs. Ragheshwari, Delhi, Dr. D. H. Pawar for necessary help and encouragement during my work.

Dr. Divakar Pune, Dr. Wadudh Khan Majalgaon, Prof. Pokale Aurangabad, Dr. J. F. Valdkamp, Netharland; Dr. Neil Snow, Honolulu; Dr. T. A. cope, Kew; Prof. Hildemar, Berlin for helping me during my work.
I would like to mention sincere thanks to my senior Dr. Nilesh Malpure, Dr. Shankar shendage, Mr. Vasanta, Dr. Anand, Dr. Anil, Dr. Sandeep, Dr. Mansing, Dr. Nilesh, Dr. Rajaram and my colleagues Dr. Arun, Shital, Makarand, Manoj, Anjali, Swapnja, Shrikant, Tushar, Sandip, Avinash, Hemant, Shrikant, Sharad and Amol for their constant help and encouragement. For all the friendship and fun to Botany Department: Kranti, Firdosh, Vishal, Mayur, Rahul, Ravikiran, Jay, Parth, Nivas, Uday, Umesh, Uday, Babu, Vishal, Shakil, Dr. Smita, Uvaraj, Abijeet, Rameshwar, Sarjerao for their cooperation.

During the course of this work, I was financially supported by DBT, New Delhi and RGSTC, Pune, I am thankful to these funding agencies.

My unlimited thanks to all the people that I met during my Ph.D. for their pleasant company, conversations, help and friendship,

I extend my thanks to all members of Jadhav family and Dalal family for providing me homely atmosphere. I owe my special thanks to all non-teaching staff from the Department of Botany whose direct or indirect co-operation during the entire course was valuable.

Last but not least I am thankful to all my well-wishers.

Kumar Vinod C. Gosavi