ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am really grateful to my guide, Dr. M.V. Rao, Reader in the Department of Zoology, School of Sciences, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad, for his excellent guidance, affection and easy way of teaching throughout this investigation in the field of Reproductive Physiology which encouraged and enabled me to complete it successfully and satisfactorily.

I am very much grateful to Professor N.J. Chinoy, Head, Department of Zoology and Director, School of Sciences, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad, for providing me unlimited access to the excellent research facilities of the Department.

I am equally thankful to Dr. M. Rajani, Scientist, PERD Laboratory, for her most valuable advice and tireless interest and help in this investigation.

I am thankful to all the staff and research colleagues of the Department for their help and cooperation. My special appreciation goes to my colleagues and friends, Dr. Roy, G.K., Miss Arti K. Sharma and Mrs. Gayatri Patil, for their constant help at every stage in my work.

I would like to thank Dr. M.V. Narayana, Scientist, Wockhardt, Aurangabad, who was of immense help during the initial stage of my research and all my past and present colleagues and colleagues in RIA Laboratory of this Department.

It would have been at fault if I do not extend my thanks to the Trustee Committee of Gujarat Vaishya Sabha for providing me very good accommodation, which enabled me to carry out this investigation.

Also my friends Dilip, Ketan, Vimal, Dr. Kamlesh and Harshad were a source of assurance and support during the tenure of this work.

Sincere appreciation is expressed to Mr. Viswanathan for neatly typing the manuscript. The help during the photographic work rendered by Mr. Somabhat was par excellence.

Last but not the least, my appreciation goes to all my family members, who bore stress with patience at all stages of my study.

Kamlesh D. Shah