ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

"faith is the force of life"

I am deeply indebted and wish to express my sincere gratitude to my “Sirji” Prof. Dr. O.P. Saxena, Head, Botany Department, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad for his invaluable guidance, encouragement, critical comments and constant inspiration throughout the course of this investigation.

I express immense sense of gratitude to my parents for instilling in me the faith that nothing, not even ‘destiny’ can stop you if you have the passion and the will to succeed. I extend my deepest gratitude to my parents in laws specially Mrs. D.R Bhatt for her monumental moral support.

My special thanks to my wife Dr. Mayuri Pandya for her encouragement, word of support, attention and her faith in me have played a pivotal role in having motivated me to successfully complete this work. I thank my son Aumkar Pandya for his patient endurance.

I express my profound gratitude to Mr. Bharat Pandya and Mrs. Archana Pandya for their moral support, timely suggestions and invaluable help in shaping my career.

A word of thanks can not suffice the great efforts taken by my family members Mr Satish Pandya, Mrs Kashmira Pandya, Dr. Kashyap Pandya, Dr. Nimisha Pandya, Udita, Parnapat, Rushikesh for their love, encouragement, patient hope, moral and emotional support through the rough as well as the smooth times in my life.

My sincere thanks to my research colleagues Mr Dhaval Vyas and Mrs. Illa Patel.

Finally, thanks do not seem enough to the almighty to whom I owe everything.

(Himanshu Pandya) Date 30-12-2002