ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It gives me immense pleasure to express my deep sense of gratitude and reverence to my research supervisor, Dr. G. P. Bhawane, Professor, Department of Zoology, Shivaji University, Kolhapur. I am greatly indebted to him for exposing me to this area by suggesting this topic, unfailing attention, constant encouragement, inspiring discussion and constructive criticism during the course of this investigation, without which this work would not have come to light.

It is my duty to thank Prof. T. V. Sathe, Head, Department of Zoology, Shivaji University, Kolhapur for providing necessary facilities and encouragement to complete the research work undertaken.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Dr. A. A. Kanase, Dr. D. V. Muley, Dr. S. M. Gaikwad, Dr. M. P. Bhilave, Dr. M. V. Walvekar, Dr. N. A. Kamble, Dr. S. R. Yankanchi, Dr. A. A. Deshmukh and Dr. A. D. Jadhav for valuable suggestions and encouragement.

I extend my thanks to Dr. S. R. Yadav, Dr. N. B. Gaikwad and Dr. Jay Ghosh for their keen interest and encouragement during the research period.

I take this opportunity to express my thanks to my well wishers, colleagues and friends Dr. S. R. Aland, Dr. S. S. Bhaisare, S. J. Patil, A. B. Mamlayya, Y. J. Kol, Y. B. Gaikwad, V. J. Kumbhar, A. B. Sarwade, N. T. Pawar, Y. S. Muniv, S. Taware, V. Lagade, L. P. Bhopale, P. P. Sarvankar, S. R. Londhe, S. B. Kamble, S. S. Gaikwad, V. V. Potdar, S. B. Nadaf, V. B. Nalwade, S. Bhosale for their cheerful co-operation, cordial encouragement and help in every aspect throughout this work.

I thank Head, USIC, CFC, Department and his staff for availing me the facilities during the course of research work. I also very much thankful to UGC, New Delhi for appointing me as a project fellow and providing me financial support during my research work.

I can’t forget to thanks the non-teaching staff of Zoology Department, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, for their valuable assistance during the period of research.
I, express my thanks to the staff of the University Library for rendering the valuable co-operation regarding the library facilities.

I wish to express my thanks my best friends Rupali, Supriya, Amita, Dipti, Sulkshana, Sunil, Anil dada, Vishram dada, Atish dada, George sir, Swarupa tai, Dr. Meghana Kamat, Dr. Sneha Sawant, Swapnaja mam, Avinash and Sardar for their moral support and encouragement.

I express my gratitude to my Grant parents, Late Shree Vishnu Chavan (Nana), Late Shree Dattu Patil and Mrs. Shakuntala Patil.

Words here can never adequately reflect my indebtedness to the couple who gave me life, gave me sustenance, and made me all that I am today- my Mother Sau. Vaishali Chavan and my father Shri. Ashok Chavan offering thanks to them would devalue the position they occupy in my heart. My brother Mr. Pradeep is the source of inspiration that extended his helping hand throughout my career. He always encouraged me by all means without which the work may not be completed. I also greet to my caretaker Umesh and Pragati Shetye, Sou and Shree Yashwant Shetye (Nana and Nani).

I also thanks to my family members M. k. dada, B. K. Chavan (kaka), V. R. Chavan (Papa), Anita and Somanrao Desai, Kadolkar family, Jakhale family and Sntaji Patil (Mama) and family for their blessing and very special thanks to Yogesh and Abhijit.

Finally yet importantly, I would like to thanks all my well-wishers, Friends and family members who helped and encouraged me directly or indirectly during the period of research.

MISS. JYOTI ASHOK CHAVAN