ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is a matter of great pleasure to express my deep gratitude to my guide Dr. (Mrs.) Dolly Kumar, Reader, Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, for her continuous encouragement, very personal assistance and freedom that she granted me to pursue my goals in the best possible way.

I extend my special thanks to Prof. Bonny Pilo, former Head and Dean, Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science and Prof. A. V. Ramachandran, Head, Department of Zoology for providing facilities throughout my research tenure.

I am grateful to Prof. Bonny Pilo, for extending financial assistance through UGC-DSA, COSIST and CREB Project. I am thankful to him for his scholarly advice all through my research and also for helping me in finalising the difficult task of photography.

Financial assistance as Junior research fellowship through U.G.C. scholarship is also acknowledged.

I express my thanks to Prof. N. Radhakrishnan, for checking facts, verifying data and deflecting me from committing many errors I might have otherwise made during my work.

I express my special gratitude to Dr. Suresh and Dr. Isha for being supportive, understanding and providing timely help. My special thanks are also due to my little friend, Vedaang, whose interest for spiders has always given me immense pleasure.

I express my sincere thanks to Prof. G. P. Senan, Head, Department of Botany, Faculty of Science for extending the necessary photo-micrographic facilities and Dr. G. Pradeepkumar for helping me in collecting the necessary floristic data.

It gives me immense pleasure in acknowledging the invaluable and timely help rendered by my affectionate lab-mates, Anjali, Dr. Nancy and Shilpa and my colleagues Dr. Manoj E., Dr. Jitendra Gavali, Bimal Desai, Biren Thakkar, Mona Dave, Bharti Patel and D. V. Jadhav. Also I would like to acknowledge my dear friends Akshida, Bhavna, Dharmendra, Disha, Lily, Mahelaka, Mayuri, Pradeep, Reena, Sapna, and Sonal, whose encouragement helped to boost my moral throughout my research tenure.

I greatly appreciate all the teachers, research scholars and non-teaching staff of the Department of Zoology, for their kind help and co-operation.

Thanks are also due to Dr. Ashok Kumar, Head, Dept of Zoology, Rajasthan University, Jaipur, for permitting me to carry out the initial part of photography. I am greatly indebted to Mr. Harkami for his help in photography.

I place on record my sincere thanks to Dr. B. K. Biswas, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, for answering my queries on spiders. I appreciate his encouragement, timely help and valuable counseling. I have been benefited from discussions with Dr. B. H. Patel, arachnologist, Gujarat during initial phase of my study.

I am deeply indebted to my beloved parents, other family members and my dearest brother Kapil, for their mellifluous love and poignant affection on me, which fostered in maintaining the much needed piquancy and mirth in pursuit of my educational ambitions.

At this stage of completion of my Ph.D work, I would like to remember my revered teacher Late Dr. R.V. Nene, who would have been the happiest person to see me achieve this task.