ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my sincere thanks and deepest sense of gratitude to Late Professor M. Mashkoor Alam, who trained me in Plant Nematology and supervised my research work for the award of PhD Degree.

I am grateful to Professor Ainul Haq Khan, Chairman, Department of Botany, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh and his predecessors who provided me facilities for conducting research in the department.

I am highly indebted to Professors Abrar M. Khan, S.K. Saxena, Khalid Mahmood and Akhtar Haseeb, for their keen interest and invaluable suggestions during the course of these investigations. I also appreciate the cooperation extended by all my family members especially to my elder brother Dr. Abrar Ahmad, colleagues, friends, well wishers and dear ones.

I am greatly thankful to Mr. Mohamad Azhar Rather for his help during the compilation of the thesis.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge all the co-authors of my research publications for their collaboration in the work.

Financial support in part, made by the Departmental Financial Assistance, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh in the form of Junior Research Fellowship (JRF), Senior Research Fellowship (SRF) and University Grants Commission during the course of the study is gratefully acknowledged.

Last but not the least my foremost duty is to bow in reverence to ALMIGHTY ALLAH whose blessing has enabled me to complete this work.

(MANSOOR AHMAD SIDDIQUI)