ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is great pleasure to express my deep sense of gratitude to my research director Prof. B. Bharatha Lakshmi, M.Sc., Ph.D., Department of Zoology, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, for giving me an opportunity to work under her guidance. I am very much indebted to her for her keen interest, meticulous guidance, constant, persuasion, encouragement and affectionate treatment throughout the study period, which all together inspired me to work with great zeal. I have no words to convey my regards except to express my heartfelt gratitude to her.

I feel it as my bounden duty and an elation to express my deep sense of gratitude to my co-guide Prof. L. M. Rao, M.Sc., Ph.D., B.L., Department of Zoology, Andhra University for giving me the opportunity to work under his guidance marked by dignity, discipline and depth. I am greatly indebted to him for the keen interest he has evinced in my research at all times with his timely suggestions. A marvel of fillip, wit and eloquent suggestions, he has inspired me to work with great zeal and has been instrumental in making me realize my cherished dream. In no words I can extol him, but to express my heartfelt gratitude to him.

My earnest thanks are due to Prof. K. Sreeramulu, the present Head of the Department and also the immediate past Head, Prof. D.E. Babu for the facilities provided in the department. I wish to thank all the teaching faculty of Zoology for their constant co-operation throughout the tenure of my Research work.

I would like to endorse with thanks the interest shown, inquiries made and suggestions given by Prof. R. Madhavi, Ex. Vice-Chancellor, Sri Padmavathi Mahila Viswavidyalayam, Tirupathi.

I am in short of words to express my feelings of gratitude to Dr. K. Ramaneswari, Asst. Professor, Acharya Nannaya University, for her valuable suggestions and support during the study period.
It is my pleasure to acknowledge with thanks my lab mates Mrs. K. Kalyani Devi, Dr. Satish Kumar, V. Ramana, A. Gowriprasad, S. Mukunda Rao, Y. Polinaidu, K. Veeraju, Ch. Praveen and T. Tulasi, for all the help rendered during the course of present study. I also wish to thank Dr. Persis and Dr. Chandrasekhar Reddy for the timely help rendered by them at times of need.

My special thanks are due to Dr. Srinivas, for helping me in the preparation of the thesis. I shall also thank Mr. Srikanth Samrat, for all the help extended at times of need.

I feel happy, to express my ardent feelings of appreciation to my research colleagues B. Sailaja, Dr. T. Triveni Lakshmi and Dr. V. Anuprasanna whose encouragement and best wishes reflect in all my endeavors.

Words fail to express my deep sense of appreciation and indebtedness to my late beloved father Sri B.V. Suryam and my mother Smt. Surya Prabhavathi Devi for their blessings and affection, who were a constant source of inspiration and always stood by me as a great support and motivation which made me to realize my dream.

I would like to place on record my heartfelt thanks to my husband Mr. Surender, for his unstinted co-operation, encouragement and moral support throughout the study period. It is my pleasure and I am very much elated to acknowledge the soothing love and affection showered on me, by my daughter Chy. Gayatri dhatri, to ease my tensions during the period of my research work.

I wish to thank the authorities of Andhra University for the excellent facilities provided to carry out my research work successfully.

(B. RAJA RATNA MANI)