ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It gives me great pleasure to record my heart felt deep sense of respect, gratitude and indebtedness to Professor K.M. Kadam, Ph.D., F.Z.S., Department of Zoology, Bangalore University, Bangalore, for his valuable guidance and constant encouragement during the course of the investigation and help in the compilation of the thesis.

I am highly thankful to Professor B.N. Chowdaiah, Ph.D., Head of the Department of Zoology, Bangalore University, Bangalore, and Professor A.R. Kasturi Bai, Ph.D., for their help and for providing facilities during the period of my research work.

I also take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to Doctoral committee members: Dr. H.R. Srinivasachar, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Zoology, Bangalore University, Bangalore and Professor M. Appaswamy Rao, Ph.D., (Mysore), Ph.D. (Wisconsin), retired Head of the Department of Zoology, Karnataka University, Dharwad, for their encouragement and useful suggestions during the course of investigation.

I also express my sincere gratitude to Professor L.S. Ramaswami, D.Sc., F.N.A., for encouragement and for permitting me to make use of his personal library.

I am also thankful to my friend, Dr. H.M. Shasidhara Murthy, Ph.D., formerly of Department of Biochemistry, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore not only for his assistance during immunocytochemical studies by providing FSH and LH antisera and for his useful discussions on the technique, but also for making available the letraset instant lettering (contact labels),
I acknowledge the National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism and Digestive Disorders (NIAMD) and Pituitary Distribution Agency, Maryland, U.S.A., for their generous supply of gonadotrophins and the Center of Population Research of the National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development and the National Institutes of Health, U.S.A., for making available the human chorionic gonadotrophin (HCG, CR-121).

I acknowledge CIBA-GEIGY Ltd., Basle, Switzerland for the kind gift of Metopirone and also Merk, Gerischtsstand, Darmstadt, Germany, for the gift sample of 4-methoxy 2-nitro aniline blue used in the estimation of ascorbic acid.

I record my sincere thanks to Drs. K. Srihari, R.N. Srinivasa Gowda, V. Raghavan and B. Prabhakara Hegde, of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, for their encouragement and allowing me to make use of the photographic unit, for microphotography. I am also thankful to Dr. C.C. Reddy for keeping his typewriter at my disposal. I thank Dr. S.G. Satyanarayana and Ms. G. Padma Latha, for their technical assistance.

I also acknowledge the council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) New Delhi, for financial help and the award of Junior Research Fellowship to me.

(G GOVINDA RAJ)