ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The present work was carried out under the able and valuable guidance of Dr. K. Mani, M.C., Ph.D., Department of Zoology, Bharathiar University (erstwhile P.G. Centre, Madras University), Coimbatore. I express my deepest thanks to him for having suggested the problem and for the helpful discussions and his keen interest in this work.

I am indebted to Prof. G. Sundar Rajulu, D.Sc., F.R.E.S. (Lond.), Head of the Department of Zoology, Bharathiar University for all the help at all stages of this work including suggestions.

I am thankful to Dr. R.H. Hackman, CAIRO, Australia and Dr. Fratisek Tehnal, Entomologicky Ustav Cesav, Czecholabakia, for critically going through the parts of the work and for many helpful suggestions.

My thanks are due to the Director of Collegiate Education, Tamil Nadu, for granting permission to undertake this work.
My sincere thanks are due to Prof. S. Abdul Khader 'ait, the Principal, Prof. A.K. Kashturi, the ex-Principal and Prof. K.O. Bhopathy for extending all facilities to carry out this work.

I am thankful to Mr. C.J. Hamilton and his colleagues, CIF, London for having extended their library services. My thanks are also due to Mr. K. Balasubramanian, Librarian, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore for his help during the tenure of this work.

I profusely thank my colleagues Dr. V. Jayapaul, Prof. M. Mahalingam and Prof. M. Ramanathan who helped me in the preparation of the thesis. My thanks are also due to Prof. K. Gopinath, M.C. Ph.D. F.R.E.S. (Lond.) University of Mysore for his ready help.

My thanks are also due to Mr. P. Krishnan, Bharathiar University for all the helps rendered during the period of this work.

I record my deep gratitude to my wife for all her understanding patience and unfailing support she extended to me during the years in which the present work was carried out. My love to my children for bearing with me so long when I was almost indifferent to their fond wishes!