ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is with pleasure and deep sense of gratitude, I thank Dr. K. S ASIKALA, MSc., Ph.D., F.A.Z., M.A.F.R.C., Reader, Division of Human Genetics, Department of Zoology, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore for suggesting the problem, guidance, encouragement and help in bringing out this work.

My sincere thanks to Prof. (Late) Dr. G. SUNDARARAJULU, Head, Dept., of Zoology, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore for his valuable suggestions, guidances and encouragements in execution of this work, and also to Prof. R. MANAVALARAMANUJAM, Head, I/C. Dept., of Zoology for providing laboratory facilities.

I am grateful to Dr. G. VANITHAKUMARI, Professor and Dr. K. MURUGAN, Senior Lecturer, in the Department of Zoology, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore for their interest in my research career.

I am greatly indebted to my beloved wife Mrs. C. DEBORAH PACKIAJOTHI. BSc(N), for her encouragement and help in bringing out this work.

My sincere thanks to Professor JOSHUA GNANADURAI, Head, Department of Chemistry, Margaschis College, Nazareth, and Dr. JOHN WICLIFFE MSc., Ph.D., for their valuable suggestions.

I put in record my gratitude to Mr. P. C. J. JOTHINAYAGAM, Principal. Kendriya Vidyalaya, INS Kattabomman and Mr. EDWIN, Asst. Headmaster, Stanes Hr.Sec.School. Coimbatore for their editorial work.
Timely help rendered by Dr. RAJA, Mr. S. KALAIKUMAR, Dr. R. RAMESH, Mr. D. P. KARTHIKEYAN, Mr. R. ASHOK KUMAR, Mr. CALISTUS JUDE and Ms. MARLIN CYNTHIA and other scholars of my department are gratefully appreciated.

My thanks are also due to Dr. JAWAHAR SAMUEL and Mr. CALEB JOHNSON for their timely help.

I am beholden to M/s. Maa Mannar Achakam and M/s. Microlink, Coimbatore for their neat execution of typographical work.

I am beholden to Mr. BALU, Mr. SENTHILNATHAN, M/s. SURI associates and M/s T.B.A Arts Coimbatore for their photographic work.