ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It's great to keep yourself focused on an ambitious goal. And that focus is the most effective when it is crafted from the perspective of where you are now with proper guidance. Here, I avail the present opportunity to express my profound gratitude towards my venerable guide Dr. R. A. Satpute, Associate Professor, Dept. of Botany, Government Institute of Science, Aurangabad, whose dynamic guidance and motivation inspired me to discover my own potentials. His guiding spirit and constructive criticism has not only given this work its present shape but has also helped me become a better person in every way of life.

It is my pleasure to extend my warm and sincere thanks to Dr. Mrs. H. J. Wankhede (Chaudhari), Director, Government Institute of Science, Aurangabad, for providing me timely help and constant encouragement for the smooth conduction of my research work.

I express my deep sense of gratitude and sincere thanks to Dr. V. S. Kothekar, Head and professor, Dept. of Botany, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, for the invaluable guidance, help and inspiration by him in completion of this research work.

I owe my sincere gratitude to President and all the members of management, Jalna Education Society for constant encouragement for the promotion of this academic activity. I wish to express my gratitude to Principal Dr. R. S. Agrawal, J. E. S. College, Jalna, and Prof. T. S. Kabra, Vice Principal J. E. S. College, Jalna for their support and encouragement.

I am grateful to Prof. K. B. Wanjar, Head, Dept. of Genetics and Plant Breeding, Dr. Punjrabao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola and Prof. Janagirdar, Agricultural research station, Badnapur for providing me the germplasm of selected Vigna species.

I owe my sincere thanks and courteous gratitude to Dr. S. G. Gupta, Director, Pre.IAS Centre, Mumbai and Asst. Prof. Pushan P. for their valuable suggestions and timely help throughout my research work.

I avail this opportunity to extend my deepest thanks to Dr. Mrs. Dharmadhikari, Head, Dept. of Microbiology and Dr. Mrs. Peshwe, Head, Dept. of Biotechnology. I am also thankful to Dr. S. G. Kulkarni, Dr. S. M. Deshpande, Mrs. Pandhare, Mr. A. JadHAV and all other teaching staff of Government Institute of Science, Aurangabad for their kind encouragement and interest during my investigation.
I also owe my sincerest gratitude to Dr. U.P. Mogle, Head, Dept. of Botany, J.E.S. College, Dr. L.V. Shinde, Head, Dept. of Zoology, J.E.S. College and my colleagues, Dr. G. B. Kulkarni, Mr. P. B. Chauri, Mr. S. D. Niture and Mr. S. R. Sarda for their support and encouragement.

My sincere thanks go to Mrs. A. V. Kotekar and Mrs. Kalpana Rajendra Satpute for their moral support throughout my present research study.

I am thankful to Mrs. Kalpana Jamdhade and Mr. B. S. Dhokane for their invaluable help as regards photography and library facilities respectively.

Some friends are never too busy to give us a hand whenever they are needed. I express my sincere love and affection towards Pramod Ghogare and Anjali Naik for their enthusiastic help and moral support throughout my research work.

I am also thankful to my friends Vihang, Yash, Santosh Suradkar, Anil Bhalerao, Sunil Sangle and Shivram Khadke for their consistent help throughout my research work.

I am also thankful to all non-teaching staff of Government Institute of Science, Aurangabad, for their timely cooperation.

The acknowledgement would not be complete without mentioning my deepest feelings of gratitude to my beloved father, Shri. Devilalji Pardhe, mother Sow. Leelabai to share the present moment of happiness with them and for providing me all blessings and constant inspiration throughout my life.

Finally, I would like to extend my deep feelings towards my wife Sow. Rajani and my lovely son Omkar for their patience and moral support during the completion of my research work.

This thesis could not have been possibly brought to a successful culmination without the blessings of Almighty. I bow to him with limitless gratitude and humility. Without His will, this thesis would not have been initiated—not to mention completion.

Lastly, it is imperative to point out that though all may not be mentioned none are forgotten.

DEEPAK DEVI LAL PARDHE