SYNOPSIS OF THE THESIS

The thesis deals with the nematode parasites of vertebrates. An attempt has been made particularly, to describe the nematodes collected from reptiles and birds from Maharashtra State. The material pertaining to the thesis was collected during the period 1975-1978.

The nematode parasites described in this work belong to the orders - Rhambdiasidea, Oxyuridea, Spiruridea and Filariidea. Altogether one new genus and eleven new species are described and the other ten species are redescribed and reported from new hosts.

The manuscript comprises of two parts, of which the first part deals with the morphology and systematic position of nematodes of the orders - Rhambdiasidea, Oxyuridea and Spiruridea and the second part is confined to the Filariidea.

PART I

In this section an attempt has been made to classify the species of the genera, Rhabdias, Entomelas, Ibrahimia, Pharyngodon, Cosmocerca, Heterakis and
**Strongyluris.** A new genus *Gallioxynema* is erected to accommodate a new worm, *G. thapari* n. gen. n. sp., reported from domestic fowl.

The spiruridae is represented by members of the genera *Skrjabinelazia*, *Oxyspirura*, *Echinoccephalus*, *Tanqua*, *Physalopteroides*, *Dispharynx* and *Viguiera*.

Altogether nine new species and seven others are reported from Maharashtra.

1. *Rhabdias fuscovenosa catanensis*
2. *Entomelas ratnai* n. sp.
3. *Ibrahimia tectunia* n. sp.
4. *Pharyngodon brooki* n. sp.
5. *P. megalocerca*
6. *Cosmocerca varani* n. sp.
7. *Gallioxynema thapari* n. gen. n. sp.
8. *Heterakis gallinarum*
9. *Strongyluris strongyluris* n. sp.
10. *Skrjabinelazia hemidactyli* n. sp.
11. *Oxyspirura patrowi*.
12. *Echinoccephalus* sp.
13. *Tanqua anomalae*
14. *Physalopteroides physalopteroides* n. sp.
15. *Dispharynx nasuta*
16. *Viguiera macrorus* n. sp.
PART II

This part deals exclusively with the order FILARIIDEA. In the family Filaricidae claus, 1885 two new species one each under the genus Parachandlyrella and Hastospiculum are described and a redescription of the species of Hamatospiculum is given. Neofilaria allii from the family Dipetalonematidae Wher, 1935 is redescribed. In the family Dracunculidae Leiper, 1912, the redescription of the species Dracunculus allii is given.