ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The entire work was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Syed Mehdi Ali, Professor and Head of the Zoology Department, Marathwada University. The author takes this opportunity to offer his deep sense of gratitude to Professor Syed Mehdi Ali for his untiring interest in the work and for providing laboratory facilities.

The author is thankful to Shri R.R. Note, Photo-Artist, Zoology Department for reproducing photo-copies of the original drawings.

My sincere thanks are also due to Shri J.L. Narode for kindly typing this thesis.

Finally, I must acknowledge the invaluable help rendered by the Indian Documentation Centre, (IN3DOC) for providing microfilms of the foreign publications.