Acknowledgements

I take this opportunity to acknowledge my cordial thanks and deep sense of gratitude to my guide DR. K.S.DESHPANDE, Head, Post Graduate Department of Botany and Agricultural Microbiology, whose guidance with constant inspiration led me to compile this piece of work in the form of Ph.D. Thesis.

I am also thankful to Dr. Mrs. Usha Deshpande, Research Guide, Botany Dept. for constant encouragement during the work.

My grateful thanks are due to Principal Dr. B.R.Keshavan for facilities provided. I am thankful to the Maharashtra council of science and Technology, Department of Education and Youth Welfare, Govt. of Maharashtra, for the award of the fellowship for work on Ramie.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Dr. Miss Naaz, Dr. R.D.Joseph, Dr. P.B.Deshmukh, Sri J.V.G.Prasad, Miss Neeta Purandare, Miss Chayya Choudhari, Shri Gangwal and other Colleagues in Botany Department for help in various ways.

My sincere thanks are also due to K.S.LATHA Photo Offset Printing Works, Hyderabad for their help in typing and to Shri Chandrakant and Kumar, of Studio Garden for Photography.

Darsi Phebe Sarah