ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I take this opportunity to express my deep sense of gratitude and sincere thanks to Dr. P.B. Papdiwal, M.Sc., Ph.D., F.P.S.I., my teacher and guide for this work. It was high scholarly guidance and constant encouragement that could make this investigation possible.

I am thankful to Shri G.M. Kurude, Adv. M.K. Dhondge, M.G. Pawar, Prin. Dr. S.D. Nagpurne, Prin. P.D. Joshi; Prin. Dr. P.M. Gaikawad, Shri Sant Gadge Maharaj College, Loha for permitting me to undertake the present investigation.

My thanks are also due to Dr. V.S. Koethekar, Professor and Head, Prof. Dr. A.M. Mungikar, Dr. S.S. Kamble, Mr. A.S. Dhabe, Mr. A.B. Ade of Department of Botany, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad for their useful suggestions, and help.

I am thankful to Dr. B.V. Jadhav, for encouragement and to my colleagues Dr. B.G. Pawar, Dr. S.L. Korekar, Mr. R.J. Sawant for cooperation.

I am also thankful to Prof. F.M. Shinde, Prof. Suresh Jadhav, Purushottam Dhondage, Dr. S.V. Mandge, A.S. Jadhav, Diwaakar Kakade, Dr. V.M. Biradar, Rajesh Gore, Shivaraj Mangnale, V.G. Chavan, Mahavir Rajmane, R.B. Gawate and L.B. Gawate for their help in various ways.

I am thankful to D.M. Pawar, Dr. N.N. Munde, Dr. N.P. Suryawanshi, L.S. Rawangawe, A.G. Chavan, B.B. Bondare, G.B. Kadam, Govind Suryawanshi, B.D. Patil, Dr. S.R. Kandhare, Dr. B.K. Shinde, Dr. V.K. Jadhav, for their constant encouragement throughout my present studies.

My sincere thanks to Mr. Baburao Dhokane, Photo artist, for help in photography and Mr. Kaleem Ahmed for computer printing of the thesis.

I will be failing in my duty, if I do not acknowledge the encouragement received from my wife Mrs. Jaykranti and daughters Nishigandha and Sugandha.

December, 2002

A.B. Gawate