ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am extremely happy to take this opportunity to acknowledge my debts of gratitude to those who are associated in the preparation of this thesis.

It has given me immense pleasure to express my deep sense of gratitude and sincere thanks to my venerated and dynamic guide Dr. Jatin Kalita, Professor, Department of Zoology, Gauhati University for his valuable guidance, constant encouragement, critical review and inspiration extended during the course of the study and as a result of which I have been able to present my thesis.

It is a great pleasure to express my sincere regards to my co-guide Dr. Gajen Ch. Sarma, Department of Botany, Gauhati University for his keen interest in supervision. Words are inadequate and poor substitute to express my gratitude and gratefulness for his affection and untiring efforts in helping me out.

I am grateful to M.C. Brahma ACS, S.P. Nandi ACS, A.N. Bora ACS, P.K. Goswami ACS, Directors (Ex) and A. Baruah ACS, Director, Sericulture, Government of Assam, for permission and valuable suggestions for the Ph.D. study.

My hearty gratefulness goes to the Head, Department of Zoology and Botany for providing laboratory facilities and also to other honourable teachers as well as staff both of the department for their valuable suggestions and encouragement.

I would like to thank the Director BSI, Kolkata, for giving permission and M. Bongopadhyya Sc-D, for identifying the herbarium specimen.

I am thankful to Dr. N. C. Mehrotra, Director, Birbal Sahni Institute of Paleobotany, Lucknow to provide the Scanning Electronic Microscope and library facility and Dr. U. Bajpayee, Sc-F, S.K. Bera Sc-E, S. Kumar T.O. for their help in my study.

I am thankful to the company Banglore Gene, MERCK SPECIALIST Private Ltd. Facia No. 6, 6th Main BDA Industrial Subur, Near SRS, Road, Peenya, Bangalore-560058 for doing DNA finger printing of Som plants.

I extend my great thanks to S.N. Mishra, Sc-C and staff A. Barman, Sr. F. A. etc. Regional Silk Technological Research Station, Khanapara for providing necessary help in muga reeling.
I would like to thank the Assistant Director of Sericulture, Goalpara for giving me permission for survey and rearing of muga silkworm in the Som garden of the district.

I greatly acknowledge the valuable suggestions made by S. Deori Jt, Secy., Dr. B.K. Singh, Dr. C.M. Bajpayee, Dr. A.K. Sahu, M. Sahu, B. Choudhury, Dr. A. Bhattacharya, S.K. Datta, Sc-C and B. Das Sc-B. of Central Silk Board during the study.


I extend my heartfelt thanks to Dr. B. Tanti, Gauhati University, Dr. A. Kalita, Pragjyotish College Guwahati, Dr. M. Ahmed, and Dr. R. Baishya, Goalpara College who showed keen interest in my study.

I wish to thank sincerely to Mr. Doleng, Pradip, Sudhir, Relif, Karuna, Jochen, Bireswar for their help in rearing in the field.

I am grateful to my colleagues particularly Dr. R. Gogoi Sc-C and M. Bhoumik, Sc-C, BSI; S. Basumatary Sc-B, BSIP; Jallil, Kaveri, Aminul, Bishwajit, Tamanna, Neli, Jinti, Kathakoli, Santa, Rizwan for their help and cooperation in all the stages of my study.

My heartful thanks to Hemanga Kumar for arranging the photographs.

I am indebted to my wife and all the family members for their boundless love, moral support, prayer, sacrifice and keen desire in seeing me through this undertaking.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who had helped me directly or indirectly during the course of the study.

Place:-
Date: 25 1 10

(Azizur Rahman)