ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

To God be the glory and honour for having given me a sound mind and good health to complete my Thesis in spite of many challenging difficulties during the course of my research work. My sincerest gratitude is given to him for facilitating to complete my work.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. (Prof.) S.K. Borthakur, Professor, Dept. of Botany, Gauhati University, Guwahati and Dr. T.M. Hynniewta, f/Head, Botanical Survey of India, Eastern Circle, Shillong without whose valuable guidance, proper supervision and encouragement it would have not been possible for me to complete this work. My humble words are insufficient to carry the weight of my profound indebtedness and obeisance to my guides who had spared their valuable time and energy for guidance. I am very thankful to Dr. Hynniewta for his kind help and proper guidance in different field tours to various places of Eastern Himalaya and his mental support during the tenure of my entire research work.

The present research work is a part of “Flora of India Project”, under Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India, New Delhi. I gratefully acknowledge the financial assistance from the Ministry as fellowship.

I am extremely grateful to the Director, Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata for various facilities, encouragement and granting permission for Ph.D. registration under Gauhati University, I am very thankful to the authority of Gauhati University, Guwahati for providing me the necessary facilities to carry on the research work.

My sincere thanks goes to Dr. S.K. Srivastava, BSI, CNH, Howrah (f/Liason Officer, Royal Botanic Garden, Kew) for providing me the required protologues and digital images of type specimens from Kew as well as from other Herbaria and Libraries of abroad, without whose support my work would not have been completed.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Dr. A.A. Mao, Joint Director, Itanagar, for his valuable suggestions and various help during my tour to Itanagar and for providing me meteorological data of Arunachal Pradesh. I am indebted to the Head of Central National Herbarium, BSI, Howrah, different circle offices of BSI and Head of Botany Department, North Bengal University, Siliguri, and also to Herbarium in-charge of Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, State Forest Research Institute,
Itanagar, and Llyod Botanical Garden, Darjeeling for granting me the permission for herbarium consultation.

I gratefully acknowledge Dr. R. B. Bhujel, Principal, Cluny Women’s College, Kalimpong, and Dr. K. B. Pun, Principal Scientist & In-Charge, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Kalimpong, for their critical suggestions and kind help in the hour of my need.

My heartfelt thanks goes to Dr. H. J. Noltie, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh and Dr. F. Miyamoto, Tokyo, Japan for identifying some of the confusing species from Sikkim and sending me the reprints, protologues, herbarium images etc. for my research work which were very helpful for me to complete my work.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Head and all the officers and staff members of Botanical Survey India, Sikkim Himalayan Circle, Gangtok for their kind support, encouragement and various help, especially Mr. S.K. Rai, (Presv. Asstt. Gr. I), And Mr. S. Pradhan, (Fieldman) for helping me in field tours, identification of associated plants of family Juncaceae, with whom I could learn more about taxonomy. My thanks goes to other technical staff of the institute Mr. D.N. Rai (Mounter, Presently Fieldman at NC, Dehradun), Mr. R. Giri, (Mounter), Mr. R.K. Ram (Herbarium Attendant), and late A.K. Tamang (Driver) who helped me a lot in various technical works. I would like to thank Mr. Partha Sarathi Das (Sr. Library & Information Assistant) SHC, Gangtok for his help & co-operation in library who often informed me about the latest literature on the family Juncaceae and helped me in various computer works. My thanks are due to Mr. Yadav Dewan (Stenographer) for helping me in computer and other technical works.

I wish to express my sincerest thanks to all those who have offered assistance not only in the field work but also facilitating free access to the use of resources available in different institutes especially different circles of BSI, Gauhati University, North Bengal University, District and local Research Station for consultation of Herbarium, Library etc.

I would like to thank my seniors and colleagues Dr. Chaya Déori, (Botanical Asstt.), BSI, EC, Shillong, Dr. R. Gogoi, (Scientist ‘C’), BSI, Itanagar, Mr. Amad Uddin, (SRF), BSI, EC, Shillong, Dr. Devendra Singh (Botanical Asstt.) BSI, NC,
Dehradun, Mrs. Tinku Ghosh (SRF) CNH, Howrah, Dr. A. Pinokiyo (Lecturer), Sanoi College, Nambol, Manipur, Dr. Tika Pr. Sharma, Deptt., of Forest, Gangtok, Sikkim, Dr. Samim Sofika Begum, (Principal), Maryan AJMAL Women’s College of Science & Technology, Hojai, Assam, Dr. Santosh Kr. Rai (Lecturer), Sikkim University, Mr. Arun Kr. Chhetri (Research Fellow), NEHU, Shillong for their valuable suggestions, various help and encouragement in time of my need.

There are no words to express my gratitude towards my Father Shri Shanti Kr. Chhetri, for guiding and accompanying me in the field tour of Arunachal Pradesh and for accompanying me every time while visiting Guwahati in spite of his busy schedule. I express my heartfelt gratitude to my Mother Mrs. Saraswati Chhetri for her constant inspiration, mental support and encouragement during the entire research period. Without the blessings and inspiration of my parents it would not be possible for me to complete this work. I am cordially thankful to my Sisters Ms. Neetamani Chhetri & Ms. Namrata Chhetri and Brother Udai Chhetri who have accompanied me in different herbarium and library tours to various institutes.

Lastly, I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to all those who have helped me in my research work in many ways.

Date: 18.05.2010

Geetamani Chhetri