PREFACE

The research work ‘Studies on Macrophytic Diversity of Poba Reserve Forest, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh’ was undertaken during the period of November, 2010 to December, 2012 with an aim to prepare a floristic account on Poba Reserve Forest, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

India is the third richest country in the number of plant species. The North-east region of India is well known for its natural resources and its unique geographical location provides habitat to diverse group of plants and animal. This feature of the region has given unique identity to the region throughout the world. Inspite of this, there are areas in the region which are still explored botanically. The reality of species richness in a region can be discerned through studying the protected areas as both species and habitat diversities of a region is considered to be well represented in the protected areas of the region. Keeping this point in mind a study on “Macrophytic diversity of the Poba Reserve Forest, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh”, the only protected area of the Dhemaji district of Assam, was taken up.

Present research work has laid a step in documentation and exploration of the Poba Reserve Forest, a part of which lying in the East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh and the other in the Dhemaji district of Assam. This research work also provides information on correct identification and description of the taxa with illustration in the form of a floristic account for the use of the botanists, naturalists, academicians as well as conservationists.

This research work is respectfully and sincerely submitted to Gauhati University for examination for the Doctoral degree in Botany.

I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to the almighty for giving me a sound mind and good health for the completion of my research work in time in spite of many challenging difficulties.

I highly express my sincere gratitude to Dr. S. K. Borthakur, Professor, Dept. of Botany, Gauhati University, Guwahati-14, an internationally recognised well-known taxonomist in Northeast-India also known as ‘Father of Ethnobotany in North East India’ for his kind supervision of the work throughout the tenure and without his assistance and guidance the present research work would not have been completed. My humble words are insufficient to carry the weight of profound indebtedness and obeisance to the guide who had spent his valuable time and energy for guiding the present research work.

I am grateful to the authority of Gauhati University for allowing me to undertake the present research work. Gratefulness is expressed to the authorities of Herbarium, Department
of Botany, Gauhati University; K.K. Handique library, Gauhati University; Botanical Survey of India, eastern circle, Shillong, ARUN, and SFRI-Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh.

Sincere thanks are due to the Forests Departments of Assam as well as Arunachal Pradesh for allowing me to undertake exploration in the RF under their jurisdiction. From my inner core of the heart I express indebtedness to the local people of the area I surveyed, for being kind enough to take special interest during exploration tours that have exchanged their age old practice, knowledge and helped me in collecting specimens. Without their kind co-operation and assistance this exploration cum documentation study would have not been possible.

It is also the humble duty to convey regards to all the research scholars of Gauhati University for their helps.

I express thankfulness to family members, friends, students and well wishers who helped me profoundly throughout my research works particularly my wife Mrs. Trishna Bhuyan Saikia, for her emotional support and who stood by my side in all my ups and downs and rendered incomparable sacrifices and encouraged me at all times during the course of study without whose effort, support, assistance and inspiration the completion of the work would have never been possible. Special thanks goes also to all the teaching and non-teaching staff of Silapathar Science College.

I seek apology to those, if any, whose name and designation could not be expressed unwillingly due to my poor memory, I would like to offer them my sincere thank at last but not least for their direct or indirect help in carrying out my research work.

Date: 31/08/2013
Place: Gauhati University, Ghy-14

(RANJIT SAIKIA)