ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is a matter of great privilege to express my heartfelt gratitude to my revered supervisor Prof. Ravi Parkash, Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences, for his esteemed guidance, painstaking efforts, affectionate encouragement, unfailing enthusiasm, searching queries and helping spirit rendered to me, without which the task would have become immeasurably difficult. Working with him was an innovative, spiritualistic and unforgettable experience.

My sincere indebtedness is due to Prof. K.V. Sastry, Head, Department of Biosciences, for providing me all the necessary laboratory facilities. The co-operation, in one form or the other, extended by the members of the family of the Bioscience Department, colleagues, friends and well-wishers during the course of my research work has been a happy experience for me and is duly acknowledged.

It is my duty to acknowledge the financial assistance as JRF/SRF (UGC-NET) by the University Grants Commission, New Delhi, during my research tenure.

It is my distinct honour to acknowledge the help rendered to me by Mrs. Shukla Sharma, Head, Department of Zoology, Govt. P.G. College, Gurgaon, and other staff members, during my thesis work.

The debt I owe to my parents is supreme and can never be repaid in full.

Dated: 24.02.1997

(Ashok Kumar)