PREFACE

The findings of the thesis are presented as five chapters (Chapters III – VII), each in the format of “Journal of Morphology”. One paper (Chapter III) has been accepted for publication in this Journal. The thesis begins with a chapter on “General Introduction” (Chapter I) in which the objectives and the biology of the animal under investigation are introduced. Chapter II is a comprehensive account of the methodologies. The thesis culminates with a chapter on Summary and Conclusions (Chapter VIII). Since the literature cited is separately listed for the chapters on the findings (Chapter III-VII), similar separate listing could not be avoided for the chapters I & II. Similarly, since “Journal of Morphology” format is adopted, the legends for all figures in each chapter are put at the end of the respective chapters. The inconvenience thus caused to the examiners is regretted.

24.11.2003 Jancy M. George