ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With a sense of gratitude, I wish to place on record my sincere thanks to my research guide, Dr. U.H. Mane, Reader, Department of Zoology, Marathwada University, Aurangabad. It is really my pleasure and privilege to work under his guidance, I am indebted to him. His competent capacity to design the experiments and tireless efforts of observations were highly stimulative. His nobility, demureness and brotherly affection always encouraged, whenever the task seemed impossible.

My profound thanks are due to Dr. R. Nagabhushanam, Professor and Head, Department of Zoology, Marathwada University, Aurangabad, for providing necessary facilities in the department to complete this work.

I have always been inspired by the encouragement from Dr. G.K. Kulkarni, Lecturer, Department of Zoology, Marathwada University, Aurangabad, and Dr. S.B. Wagh, Reader, Department of Zoology, Marathwada University, Aurangabad, at various stages of work.

I am very much grateful to Dr. K.S. Pillai, Research Officer, Jai Research Foundation, Valvada (Gujrat), for extending help, particularly in statistical calculations. My colleagues, Dr. S.R. Akarte, Dr. D.V. Muley, Dr. V.V. Hiwale, Mr. D.A. Kulkarni, Mr. S.D. Muley, Mr. A.N. Vedpathak, Mr. S.D. Kulkarni,
Miss A.A. Gokhale and Miss V.N. Hiswankar deserve a word of appreciation for their help in keeping the laboratory environment very pleasant during the course of study.

I feel that it is my duty to express deep sense of gratitude to my parents for their constant encouragement without which it could have been impossible for complete this work. Words are inadequate to express my feelings towards my elder brother Dr. K. Hanumantha Rao, for all that he did for me. I owe my honour to my uncle Mr. P.L. Narasimha Rao who encouraged me during the entire tenure of this work.

Thanks are due to my friends Dr. V.S. Shembekar, Dr. N.B. Bhusari, Dr. A. Muralidhar, Mr. T. Mallikarjuna Sharma and Mr. Raja Mahendra for extending their cooperation during the work.

I am also indebted to Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi for the financial support in the form of a Senior Research Fellowship during the research tenure under the research project on Neuroendocrinology of bivalve molluscs given to Dr. U.H. Mane.

I must acknowledge deep appreciation to Mr. U.L. Narode, Stenographer for meticulous typing of the Thesis with utmost promptness and to Mr. C.H. Narale for preparing microphoto-prints.

27-5-1988

( K. RAGHAVENDER RAO )