PREFACE

The present thesis entitled "Chemistry of Natural Products from some Indigenous Medicinal Plants" has been divided into five chapters and each chapter deals with different aspects of chemistry of natural products.

The first chapter describes the general survey on Indian Medicinal Plants covering the literature references up to 1973 and wide importance of natural products.

The Chapter II, forms the subject matter of chemical examination of stems of Plumbago zeylanica. Two quinones, one phytosterol and an isocoumarone were isolated and characterized from afore mentioned plant.

The Chapter III, the author has focussed on chemical studies of a steroid, a higher alcohol, two keto steroids and a camphene, isolated from the roots of Tinospora cordifolia. The structures were determined on the basis of degradative, IR, UV, NMR and Mass spectral studies.

The Chapter IV describes the chemical examination of roots and stems of Eclipta alba. A sterol, two higher
alcohols and a triterpene were isolated from roots of *Scolipta alba* whereas an alkaloid - 'nicotine' was isolated from stems. Structures of the compounds were confirmed on the basis of degradative and spectral studies.

The Chapter V screened the pharmacological studies of the isolated compounds from stems of *Plumbago zeylanica*, roots of *Stenospora cordifolia* and stems of *Scolipta alba* for their anti-fertility, antibacterial and fungicidal activity.

While every due care has been taken to give proper credit to other authors in the literature, the author would like to apologize for any omissions which might have occurred due to an oversight or error in judgement.

The work presented in the thesis has been carried out in the Chemical Laboratory, Dayanand Vedic Post-graduate College, Orai, under the supervision of Dr. G.K. Niranjan, D.Phil., F.I.C.S., Department of Chemistry, Dayanand Vedic (P.G.) College, Orai.