ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This work was taken in hand on the suggestion of Dr. G.B. Shinde, Reader in Zoology, Marathwada University and was completed under his supervision. The author takes this opportunity to offer her deep sense of gratitude to him for his untiring and keen interest in the work.

My sincere thanks are to Dr. R. Nagabhushanam, Professor and Head, Department of Zoology for giving laboratory facilities and encouragement.

I am thankful to the authorities of Marathwada University and the University Grants Commission for financial help during the period of the research work.

I must acknowledge the invaluable help rendered by the Indian Documentation Centre (INSDOC), New Delhi for their prompt supply of the photocopies, microfilms and translations of foreign publications.

Thanks are due to Shri U.L. Narode, Stenographer for kindly typing the thesis and to Shri Narale, C.H. for reproducing photocopies of the original drawings.