ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am extremely happy to express my sincere thanks to my guide, Prof. D. N. Deobagkar, Professor and Head, Department of Zoology, University of Pune, Pune, for his unremitting attention and able guidance throughout the tenure of this work. Without his keen supervision, this work would not have been what it is.

I thank Dr. G. S. Patel, Head, Department of Microbiology, Ahmednagar College, Ahmednagar, for his role as a co-guide for my work.

Principal D. M. Uzagare, Ahmednagar College, Ahmednagar, has been very kind to have provided facilities at Ahmednagar College and my sincere thanks to him.

To Dr. Mrs. D. D. Deobagkar, Reader, Zoology Department, University of Pune, Pune, I owe a lot for having been supportive and very helpful throughout.

I am thankful to Dr. V. Shankar, NCL, Pune for his valuable suggestions.

I also wish to express my gratitude to Late. Prof. John Barnabas for introducing me to research. Thanks are also due to Ex-Principal, Dr. T. Barnabas and Prof. Rev. J. Barnabas for their inspiration.

My colleagues, Ms Priya Chaudhary, Ms Manisha Deshpande, Ms Gauri Naik and Mr. Praful, in the Department of Zoology, University of Pune had been very cooperative, for which I thank them sincerely.

My sincere thanks to Dr. Shridhar Gezzi, Department of Chemistry, University of Pune for his help with the Infrared spectroscopy studies.

Thanks are due to Mr. Gokhale for helping with the photography, and the technical and non-teaching staff of the Zoology Department, University of Pune.
Special thanks are due to Dr. B. D. Bhole who helped in the final preparation and compilation of this manuscript.

My friends, especially Dr. V. V. Khanna, Mr. J. D. Prabhakar, Mr. Jagtap N. R. of Ahmednagar College, Dr. D. R. Ranade of ARI, Pune and Dr. S. P. Kale of BARC, Bombay and Mr. M. S. Shejul, require special mention for all their help.

My family has been very considerate and thoughtful throughout the period of my work and I am very much obliged to them for this.

During the course of my work, I was a recipient of the UGC Teacher Fellowship from July 1995 to June 1996. This work was also supported partly through the research grant from the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, to Prof. D. N. Deobagkar.