ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I owe my deep debt of gratitude to Dr. V.S. Lomte, Professor, (Environmental Science), Research guide in Zoology and Director, Board of College and University Development, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, under whose guidance the present work was carried out. His immaculate supervision and valuable suggestions have gone into every speck of this thesis.

I express my sincere gratitude to Prof. B.N. Pande, former Head of the Department of Environmental Science, Dr. S.B. Wagh, Head of the Department of Environmental Science, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, for providing the necessary facilities for the completion of this work.

I express my sincere thanks to the University Grants Commission authorities, New Delhi for the award of teacher fellowship under Faculty Improvement Programme.

I am thankful to all Trustees and office bearers of "Ahmednagar Jilha Maratha Vidya Prasarak Samaj, Ahmednagar" for their permission and co-operation.

I wish to thank Shri K.H. Shitole former Principal and Dr. Auti, Principal New Arts, Commerce and Science College, Ahmednagar, for constant help.

My grateful thanks are also due to Dr. S.B. Nimse, former Vice-Principal and Head of the Mathematics Department, New Arts, Commerce and Science College, Ahmednagar for his affectionate encouragement.

I am thankful to Shri S.K. Aher, Head, Department of Zoology, New Arts, Commerce and Science College, Ahmednagar, for his help throughout the work.
I am also thankful to Shri N.R. Jagtap, Lecturer in Chemistry, New Arts, Commerce and Science College, Ahmednagar, for his valuable help for some techniques in Biochemistry.

I am highly obliged to Mr. Karande A.G., Librarian, M.P.K.V. Rahuri, for the Library facilities provided. It was impossible for me to complete this work without his help.

I must mention co-operation given by Shri R.G. Khose Head, of Botany Department, New Arts, Commerce and Science College, Ahmednagar.

I am indebted to Dr. M.L. Jadhav, Development Officer, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad and my colleagues Mrs. Lalita Kunjir, Mrs. Asmita Tour, Dr (Miss) Masrrrat Sultana, Dr. Rajendra Chaudhary and Mr. Sanjay Yadav, for their help during the progress of this work. I must also be thankful to all the non-teaching staff of Environmental Science Department.

Last but not least I am greatly thankful to my husband Mr. A.S. Jadhav, Department of Physics, New Arts, Commerce and Science College, Ahmednagar, and former Senate member of University of Pune, my daughter Miss Dhanashri and my son Tanmay for their devotion, adjustments, enthusiastic and constant co-operation.

March 2001

(Mrs. Sandhya Ashok Jadhav)