SYNOPSIS OF THE THESIS

The thesis presents the results of the studies on the morphology and taxonomy of some ciliates from some invertebrates hosts in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra State. It covers detailed studies on fifteen species of ciliates of the genus Nyctotherus Leidy, 1849 (family: Nyctotheridae Amaro, 1972 - Suborder: Clevelandellina de Fuytorac and Grain, 1976 - Order: Heterotrichida Stein, 1859 - Subclass: Spirotrichia Butschli, 1889 - Class: Polymenophorea Jankowski, 1967) from six species of arthropod hosts. Five of the six hosts examined belonged to the orthoptera (insecta) while the sixth host was a millipede (Myriapoda). Eleven of the fifteen species of Nyctotherus described are new to science. The fifteen species are as follows:

(1) *N. polyphagae* Lalpotu, 1980
(2) *N. rayi* n.sp.
(3) *N. jalnaensis* n.sp.
(4) *N. nandedensis* n.sp.
(5) *N. periplanetae* Lalpotu, 1980
(6) *N. surinamensis* n.sp.
(7) *N. germanica* n.sp.

(8) *N. chatterjiei*

Chakravarty and Chatterjee, 1959.

(9) *N. aurangabadensis* n.sp.

(10) *N. maharashtrae* n.sp.

(11) *N. ganapati* n.sp.

(12) *N. anterostomae* n.sp.

(13) *N. gryllotalpae* Lalpotu, 1980

(14) *N. sultanae* n.sp.

(15) *N. microstomae* n.sp.

In the case of all the new species, detailed and critical comments are given on the basis of extensive comparisons with related forms described earlier. In the case of the four species which are redescribed, comments are given recording to variation from the original descriptions.

The species described from *Blatta germanica* and *Pycnoscelus surinamensis* are the first to be described from these hosts.