ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am very thankful to my guide, Dr. G. S. Chinchanikar who always showed keen interest in my research work. Despite his preoccupations, it remained one of his major concerns. All through these long and unrewriting guidance I would not have been able to complete the task undertaken by me.

I am thankful to Prof. S. Y. Kamble the Head, Department of Botany, so also the former HODs during period of investigation for providing me with all facilities.

Prof. S. B. David, has always been an endless source of inspiration for me. His advice was always of immense help in my fellowship days.

Late Dr. K. R. Pandit, taught me the basics of photography which enabled me to do all photographic work myself. I am very thankful to him. Mr. Agashe helped me in time with the best quality prints, deserves special mention.

I am thankful to UGC and CSIR for JRF and SRF respectively.

I am particularly thankful to Dr. S. S. Bhargava and Dr. N. P. Malpathak for their constant advice and encouragement.

Sucheta, Gauri, Manisha and Varsha, my colleagues in the Department were always a cheerful company for me. Their presence around created a very pleasant working environment. To them I offer my sincere thanks.

I thank Mrs. Anita N. Shingate for her clean and neat typing work.

During these long and painful years of research, all members in our two families initially my parents and brothers and later more particularly my husband and parents-in-law, had to put up with a lot inconvenience and occasionally even hardships. They spared me from all family commitments. Their love and affection made the rigorous of my research work a great deal bearable. I only seek their forgiveness.