Acknowledgements

I express my whole hearted deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to my research guide Dr. K. N. Dhumal, Reader, Department of Botany, University of Pune, Pune 411 007, for his keen interest, constant inspiration, valuable scholastic guidance, constructive criticism, constant encouragement and sympathetic attitude and for providing necessary facilities throughout the period of investigation to the final shaping of this thesis.

I am highly grateful to Prof. M. G. Shitole Head, Department of Botany, University of Pune, Pune 411 007 for his valuable guidance and providing necessary facilities.

I am also grateful to University Grants Commission, Government of India, New Delhi, for granting me teacher fellowship under tenth plan of faculty improvement program (FIP) for completion of my Ph.D. degree.

I would be failing in my duty if I do not express my deep sense of gratitude to Authorities of Ahmednagar Jhila Maratha Vidhya Prasarak Samaj, Ahmednagar. I am also thankful to Dr. K. M. Kadam, Principal and Dr. R. K. Aher, Vice Principal, New Arts, Commerce, and Science College, Parner, Dist.- Ahmednagar for permitting me to avail the facility of teacher fellowship.

I am very much thankful to senior Sorghum breeder, Mahatma Phule Agricultural University, Rahuri, Dist.- Ahmednagar for providing the seeds of promising Sorghum cultivars for this study.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Dr. S. K. Aher, Head Department of Botany, Prof S. S. Jadhav, Head Department of Physics, Dr. D. R. Thube, Head Department of Chemistry, Dr. S. N. Pokale, Head Department of Zoology, Prof. S. B. Gaikwad, Head Department of Mathematics and other colleagues Prof. S. L. Khapke, Prof T. S. Thopde, Prof. P. S. Mutkule, Prof. S. M. Kale, Prof. R. S. Diggikar, Prof A. D. Kakade, Prof Smt. V. P. Dhavle, Dr. S. L. Kadam, Prof. V. P. Deore, Prof. S. R. Wagh and the teaching as well as non-teaching staff of New Arts, Commerce, and Science College, Parner, Dist.- Ahmednagar for their morel support and help.

I am thankful to Associate Prof. Dr. A. D. Kadiag, Forage Department, MIPAU, Rahuri, Dist.- Ahmednagar for his valuable suggestions and timely help.
It gives me a great pleasure to extend my thanks to research colleagues Ramesh, Chanda, Sandeep, Swati, Vinay, Varsha, Prema, Ravi, Ravikiran, Digamber, Dhanshree, Shekhar, Ajungla, Hussaini, Uttam and Dr. Sushma for their constant encouragement.

I am thankful to all the teaching and non-teaching staff of Botany Department, University of Pune. Special thanks to Mr. Mahendargi for photography.

I have no words to mention love, affection and care taken by my parents, brothers, sister, my better half Sau. Charu and my beloved kids Shivraj, Vaishnavi, Vedica and Vedant, without their constant encouragement, inspiration and moral support, I could not have completed this work.

Date: December 27, 2005

Ravindra N Deshmukh
(Candidate)