Acknowledgement

First and foremost I would like to thank the Almighty God for making my academic aspirations a reality. Then I take my privilege to express my sincere and utmost gratitude to my ‘Guide’, Late Dr. Umesh Chandra Goswami, Professor, Department of Zoology, Gauhati University, for his valuable suggestions, able guidance, constructive criticism, constant encouragement and immense help throughout the tenure of this investigation, without which it would not have been possible for me to complete this work.

I am grateful to Professor Dr. Jatin Kalita, Head of the Department of Zoology, Gauhati University, for providing the laboratory and library facilities and for taking all the responsibilities in the absence of my guide.

I am indeed indebted to Dr. Bibha Chetia Borah, Principal Scientist and In-charge, Fisheries Research Centre, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, who guided and supported me throughout the research work. I thank her from the core of my heart for providing me permission to carry out majority of the research work in the Centre.

I enunciate my deep sense of gratitude to the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad for the help in carrying out works on biochemical composition.

I am indeed thankful to National Centre for Conservation and Utilization of Blue Green Algae, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, for providing samples for algal culture.

My sincere appreciation and thanks goes to the entire field staff of Fisheries Research Centre, Assam Agricultural University and the fisher folk from the different
collection sites for their relentless help in carrying out most of the field work like collection, sampling and harvesting of fish.

I feel delighted to express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr Bipul Kr Kakati, Asst Professor, College of Fisheries, Raha, for his precious assistance, effective suggestion and constant inspiration during the entire period of research work.

I would like to thank Dr. Nivedita Deka, Associate Professor, Department of Agri- Economics, AAU, and Mr. M. Nayan, Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, for their help in carrying out some of the statistical calculations.

I would like to express my special thanks to Shri Jyoti Prasad Lahan, SRF, Dept. of Biotechnology, AAU, Mr. Santosh Singh, SRF, Zoology Department, Dibrugarh University, Mr. Prasanna Dutta, Principal, and Dr. Indira Baruah, Associate Professor, Bahona College, Bahona for their timely help, advice and extreme co-operation rendered to me from time to time throughout the period of study.

I enunciate my deep sense of gratitude from the core of my heart to my husband Mr. Jetaban Kachari for his keen interest, affectionate encouragement and constructive criticism throughout the period of research and help during preparation of the thesis. Lastly I bestow all my love to my lucky charm, my daughter Devanshi as a witness of this accomplishment.

Last but not the least, I find no word to express my indebtedness that I owe to my beloved parents whose blessings, whole hearted support, affectionate encouragement and strong faith in me, made my endeavour a reality.

Date:
Department of Zoology
Gauhati University, Guwahati-781014 (Assam)  
Rimzhim Gogoi