ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is a pleasant opportunity for me to express my heartfelt gratefulness to various authorities, colleagues and friends!

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to my research guide, Dr. M.S. Kumbhojkar, Scientist, Plant Science Division of Agharkar Research Institute, for his instinctive guidance, invaluable suggestions and sustained encouragement. During the entire span of this work, he has helped me in every possible way, enabling me to complete it.

My thanks are due to Dr. A.D. Agate, Director, Agharkar Research Institute, for financial support and providing necessary research facilities.

I am also greatly obliged to Dr. M.C. Suryanarayana, Ex-Senior Scientific Officer, Central Bee Research Institute, Pune, and Botanist on Susala Gene Bank Project, Four Eyes Foundation, Pune for his constant help and providing facilities to work at C.B.R.I., Pune. He has encouraged me from time to time and suggested suitable improvements in the thesis.

I am particularly thankful to Dr. V.D. Vartak, former Head, Department of Botany, A.R.I., and at present Investi-
gator for Susala Gene Bank Project, Four Eyes Foundation, Pune, for his personal interest in this work, guidance and valuable suggestions.

Special mention must be made of my departmental colleagues - Dr. S.D. Bonde, Dr. (Mrs.) Vinaya S. Ghate, Dr. (Mrs.) Anuradha S. Upadhye, Dr. D.K. Kulkarni, Shri V.C. Deo, Shri V.N. Joshi, Shri M.H. Mhetre, Shri P.G. Gamre, Shri M.D. Chavan, Shri V.M. Mandavkar, Dr. M.B. Nagare; Dr. (Mrs.) Kantimati G. Kulkarni from Geology & Palaeontology Department and Dr. (Miss) Hema Sane of Garware College, Pune for their kind help and cooperation in this work. I am happy to record my gratitude to Dr. V.P. Patil, Head of the Plant Science Division, A.R.I. for his constant encouragement. I am thankful to the authorities and friends in Administration, Accounts and Library Sections from A.R.I. for their help from time to time.

I am grateful to the authorities of Central Bee Research Institute, Pune-5, for providing Library facility and particularly to Mrs. Madhukanta Joshi, Mrs. Laxmi Rao, and Dr. (Mrs.) Daisy Thomas, for their help.

I owe my gratitude to Shri A.G. Gupte, Shri T.P. Vartak and Dr. A.A. Khatri from Four Eyes Foundation for giving necessary facilities and constant encouragement during my studies.
I sincerely acknowledge the authorities of Botanical Survey of India, Western Circle and The Jawaharlal Nehru Ayurvedic Medicinal Plants Garden and Herbarium, Pune, for their kind cooperation.

I owe my sincere thanks to Shri Mahesh Marathe and Shri Sharad Phatak for the constant help in Computer operations and training.

I am also grateful to Dr. C. Rajshekhar from Geology & Palaeontology Department, ARI, Shri D.N. Nagpure, Shri Bipin Kavatkar for the help in Photography & illustrations and Mrs. B.A. Majgaonkar for her clean, neat and meticulous typing work.

I also sincerely thank Dr. Surendra Ghaskadbi from Zoology Group, Rajdeep Dongre, Dr. K.P.N. Kumaran, for useful suggestions in Scanning Electron Microscopy. I am really indebted to Prof. S.B. Chaphekar, Head of the Department of Botany, University of Poona for giving me constant encouragement.

I can not forget the help rendered by my uncle Shri M.S. Kanitkar and Mrs. Sumati M. Kanitkar in going through the manuscript and the typewritten matter of the same.

I can not conclude the acknowledgements without
expressing my deep sense of gratitude to my family members — my parents, mother-in-law, father-in-law, and specially my spouse Shri. Sharad Phatak and sweet kid Rohit, without whose moral support, sincere blessings and good wishes this dissertation would not have seen the light of this day.

(Mrs. Manik Sharad Phatak)

Agharhar Research Institute
G.G. Agarkar Road
PUNE 411 004.