I deem it a privilege to record my indebtedness and gratitude to all those who have given me the benefit of their wisdom and encouragement for the realization of this work. The name that strikes me first and deserves my gratitude is Professor A.R. Rao, Cancer Biology Laboratory, School of Life Sciences, J.N.U.. It is Dr. Rao, who initiated me into this exciting field of "Cancer Research" and provided the necessary expertise and supervision in designing the experimental formats. I am equally indebted to Professor B. Bhatia, School of Environmental Sciences, J.N.U., who has overwhelmed me by his inspiring appreciation, constructive criticism and supervision at all stages of this work. I owe an intellectual debt to Professor Bhatia and Professor Rao. My obligation to both of them is deep and lasting.

I express my thanks to the Government of Orissa, Department of Education, for granting me deputation to the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, on a "Fellowship" awarded by the University Grants Commission, India. My heartfelt thanks are also due to Professor (Mrs.) Anjali Mookerjee, at present, the Dean, School of Environmental Sciences, for her affection and advice.
I am extremely obliged to my friend Dr. D.R. Naik, Professor of Zoology, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, for his bountiful assistance at the time when I was deeply tormented with anxiety for the unusual delay in the submission of this thesis. It would be unfair if I do not express my thanks to Mr. L.N. Mohapatra, a colleague of mine, Department of Geology, Khallikote College, Berhampur, Orissa, who literally goaded me to undertake doctoral research, particularly in J.N.U., when I was routine-bound to the everyday-scene of a college teacher.

It would be a serious remission if I do not seize this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to Smt. & Shri D.N. Mohanty, my mother and father-in-laws who have been a constant and unfailing source of inspiration and strength to me in all my endeavours. I also owe a deep sense of gratitude to Mr. Ram Chandra Harichandan, Bhubaneswar, who has often disarmed my occasional petty depressions and disappointments by his enlightened encouragement.

I am grateful to Dr. R. Subramanian, S.E.S., and Mr. K. Rao, Science Library, J.N.U., who were uncommonly
helpful and friendly to me. I also express my thanks to Shri R.C. Mohanty and Shri B.C. Biswal, Department of Zoology, B.J.B. College, Bhubaneswar, Sk. Rahmatullah & Shri R.C. Baliarsingh, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar for their admirable assistance in the preparation of this Thesis.

At last, but not the least, I owe a debt of gratitude to my mother and my wife. My wife saddled with three school-going children bore the brunt of my long absence and remained unwavering in her encouragement. Most feelingly, I express my thanks to my children, who very stoically endured the hardship they faced in a home bereft of paternal care and supervision. Lopamudra, my eldest daughter, meanwhile who has grown up to be a collegian, helped me immensely in the preparation of the bibliography—she deserves my thanks in profusion.

Forgive my prolixity, which is yet too brief for all that I wished to say.

New Year's Day, 1985
Bhubaneswar.

(J.M. PATNAIK)