ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am deeply indebted to Dr. R.N. Joshi, Professor of Botany, Institute of Science, for his invaluable guidance throughout the course of this work.

I am also grateful to Dr. K.B. Deshpande, Senior Professor and Head, Department of Botany, Marathwada University, for the facilities and his interest in this work. I am thankful to Dr. R.M. Pai, Professor of Botany, for encouraging me to undertake research work.

I am obliged to Dr. Narendra Singh and the authorities of the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, for the facilities in their laboratory for conducting rat feeding experiments; and to Dr. M. Byers, Rothamsted Experimental Station, England, for amino acid analyses.

I am thankful to Dr. S.B. Gore for his critical suggestions during the early part of this work; to Dr. Bhogle for discussions on statistical interpretations; to the administrative staff of the Botany Department for their cooperation; to Dr. Mangikar, Dr. (Mrs) Usha Nagpal, Dr. Tekale, Mr. Bansode and Miss Bharati Jadav for helping me in a team spirit; and to my friends Dr. Patunkar, Mr. Bhawal, Mr. Kaul, Mr. Markandeya, Dr. Hanumante, Mr. Panse and others for their best wishes and moral support.

Special mention must be made of Mr. Borse and other malies (gardeners) of University Botanic Garden for the maintenance of research plots and help in the field laboratory; and of Mr. M.S. Muraleedharan for painstaking and decent typing of the thesis.

Lastly I am thankful to the University Grants Commission, New Delhi, for the award of Junior Research Fellowship to me during the period of this investigation.

(V. A. Savangikar)