ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to offer the deepest sense of gratitude to my revered research supervisor Dr. A.K. Das, Reader of Botany, Presidency College, Kolkata, Presently posted at Barasat Govt. College, Barasat, 24 Paraganas North, West Bengal, India and Dr. S.N. Ghosh, associate supervisor, Reader of Botany, Presidency College, Kolkata, West Bengal, India for guiding the research, for their valuable suggestions and criticisms and for their continual encouragement. Without their constant help, this would not surely have taken shape.

I gratefully acknowledge the help of Mr.K. Hokto Sema, Divisional Forest Officer, Dimapur, Nagaland and Dr. U. Upadhay, Department of Plant Pathology, Nagaland University for their help in various ways.

I am especially grateful to the Principal, Presidency College, Kolkata and to the Head of the Dept. of Botany of the same Institute for allowing me to work in the department and providing me all necessary laboratory facilities for this investigation.

I also wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Director, International Mycological Institute, CABI Bioscience, Egham, Surrey, UK and to Dr. J.C. David, Dr. Robert Reeder, Miss T. S. Cain, Miss. Paula Nash of the same institute for their generous help in verification, identification of fungal specimens and providing valuable suggestion and guidance in course of present work.

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the great help by way of valuable suggestion conferred by Dr. Roger Shivas, Plant Research and Development Service, Australia, Dr. Serji Tokamasu, Associate Professor, University of Tsakuba, Japan, Dr. G. Z. Jiang, Shandong Agricultural University, China, Dr. R.K. Mibey, Department of Botany, University of Nairobi, Kenya, Dr. Bin Song, Guangdong Institute of Microbiology, China.
I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Dr. V. B. Hosagoudar, Senior Mycologist, Division of Mycology and Plant Pathology, Botanical Survey of India, Palode, for giving valuable suggestion in connection with present work.

Sincere thanks are also due to Dr. P. N. Chowdhry, Division of Mycology and Plant Pathology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, India, Dr. (Mrs.) Alaka Pande, Division of Mycology and Plant Pathology, Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, Maharashtra, India for their outstanding help in the verification and identification of the fungal specimens.

I am really thankful to the Director, Central National Herbarium, Shibpur Botanical Garden, Howrah, West Bengal, India and Dr. D. C. Pal, Mr. M.C. Biswas, Mr. Alok Bhattacharya and other staff members of the same Institute and Dr. N. D. Paria, Professor and Head of the Department of Botany, Calcutta University and Dr. P. Kamilya, Lecturer, Balurghat College, South Dinajpur for their help in connection with the identification and verification of the host plants.

I am also indebted to Dr. N. Samajpati, Professor and Head, Dept. of Botany, for his assistance and co-operation during the present work.

My thanks are also due to Director, Bose Institute, Distributed Information Centre, Kolkata and to the Librarian, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Mohanpur, Kalyani, for allowing me to search the biological abstracts from the computer section and internet connections for different journals in connection with the present work.

I also extend my sincere thanks to all the teaching staff, fellow research scholars and other persons of the Department of Botany, Presidency College, Kolkata, who helped me in various ways in course of my present work.

Finally I pay soulful tribute to my parents who inspired me at every stage of my academic career and specially the Ph.D. research programme.

Torun Kumar Jana