ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my deep gratitude to my teacher and guide Prof. (Mrs.) Archana Sharma, Professor of Genetics, Centre of Advanced Study in Cell and Chromosome Research, Department of Botany, University of Calcutta for her constant help, encouragement and valuable advice throughout the tenure of my work. I also express my deep gratitude to Dr. (Mrs.) Geeta Talukder, Research Scientist, Vivekananda Institute of Medical Sciences, Calcutta for her help and valuable suggestions.

I owe my gratitude to Professor Arun Kumar Sharma, INSA Golden Jubilee Professor, Centre of Advanced Study in Cell and Chromosome Research, Department of Botany, University of Calcutta, for not only providing laboratory facilities but also helping and encouraging me whenever I needed.

Sincere gratitude is due to Professor R.P. Purkayastha, Head of the Department of Botany and Professor (Miss) Sumitra Sen, Programme Coordinator, Centre of Advanced Study in Cell and Chromosome Research, Department of Botany, University of Calcutta and all my teachers for extending all facilities needed during the period of this work.

I am also greatly indebted to the Directors, Indian Institute of Chemical Biology and Bose Institute for permitting me to consult their libraries. I am also thankful to Dr. D. Bhattacharya, Director, Bhoruka Research Centre and Prof. K.P. Sengupta, Director Calcutta Medical Centre for giving the material for leucocyte culture.

I am also highly obliged to Mr. E.K. Gantait for his patience and help in precise typing of this manuscript.

My thanks are due to Mr. R.K. Patra and Narasingh for their faithful assistance in maintaining experimental animals.
I extend my thanks to my seniors Dr. (Mrs.) Anusri Banerjee, Dr. (Mrs.) Bani Gajra, Dr. (Mrs.) Sumitra Nag, Dr. A.K. Giri, Dr. (Mrs.) Haimanti Dhir, Dr. S.K. Das, Dr. (Mrs.) Lalita Das, Dr. (Mrs.) Madhusnata De, Dr. (Mrs.) Supriti R. Dutta, Dr. (Miss) Sumona Mukhopadhyay, Dr. (Mrs.) Sharmistha Sen, Dr. (Mrs.) Patralika Chatterjee, Dr. Ajoy Kumar Ray, Dr. (Mrs.) Bani Bandana Gangopadhyaya, Dr. (Miss) Kalpana Agarwal, Dr. Soumitra Sen, Dr. (Mrs.) Bandana Chatterjee and all members of the Department for their constant help and valuable suggestions at every step.

I also thank my friends Dr. C. B. Singh, Dr. (Mrs) Sujita Ghosh, Mr. Asis Ghosh, Mrs. Gargi Dey, Miss Debisree Sarkar, Mrs. Shobhana Palchowdhury, Miss Neelam Gurnani for their cooperation and help all time and everyday during the tenure of this work.

I offer my special gratitude and thanks to Dr. (Miss) Arati Roychowdhury and Dr. (Miss) Tandra Das for their immense help and encouragement. I also offer my thanks and gratitude to Dr. (Mrs.) Anita Mukherjee and Dr. A.K. Giri for their help and encouragement. I am also thanking Ms Aditi Ghosh and Miss Syamasri Palit for their help during the preparation of manuscript.

I extend my thanks to the Man and Biosphere Committee, Department of Environment, Government of India, New Delhi and also to Indian Council of Medical Research, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi, for providing me with the fellowship during the tenure of this work.

Last, but not the least, I wish to thank my family members, particularly, my husband Mr. Ashoke Kolay for their immense help and constant encouragement without which this thesis could not have been completed.

Dated, Calcutta.

The 28.07.'92.

Srabani Maity