ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to express her deep gratitude and indebtedness to Prof. (Mrs.) Archana Sharma, Ph.D., D.Sc., F.N.A., Professor of Cytogenetics, Department of Botany, University of Calcutta, for constant guidance throughout the course of this investigation. Sincere thanks are due to Prof. A.K. Sharma, D.Sc., F.N.A., Ghosh Professor and Head of the Department of Botany, University of Calcutta, and Prof. K.P. Sengupta, Director, Department of Pathology, Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Calcutta, for encouragement and facilities provided. Thanks are also due to Dr. (Mrs.) Geeta Talukder, Department of Pathology, Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Calcutta, Dr. D.K, Bhattacharyya, Department of Pathology, North Bengal Medical College, Siliguri, and Dr. (Miss) Sumitra Sen, Reader, Department of Botany, University of Calcutta, for their kind help and advice, without which the present work could not have been successfully completed. Grateful acknowledgement is also due to the University Grants Commission, New Delhi, for the award of a Junior Research Fellowship to the author.

Lastly, the kind co-operation and assistance extended by her colleagues are thankfully acknowledged.