

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*I am indebted to Dr. Oommen V. Oommen, Professor, Department of Zoology, University of Kerala, my supervising teacher for his inspiring guidance through out the performance of this work. I am also grateful to Dr. G. K. Karnavar, Professor and Head, Department of Zoology, University of Kerala, for providing necessary laboratory facilities and also for encouragement, thoughtful help and valuable discussions. Thanks are extended to Dr. A. Strambi and Dr. (Mrs.) C. Strambi, Laboratoire de Neurobiologie CNRS, Marseille, France for their help. I am also thankful to Mr. Padmakumar. R, EXCEL Information Technology, Trivandrum for the technical assistance provided in the statistical analysis and computer processing of data. I must, of course, thank all colleagues and friends, especially Mr. Johnson Baby and Miss. Padmaja N. Nair. I am also thankful to the teaching and administrative staff of the Department of Zoology, University of Kerala for their pleasant co-operation. I express my deep sense of gratitude to my parents and my sister for their love and motivation inspired me in fulfilling this work.*