I express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Ajai Kumar, Reader and Head, Deptt. of Zoology, presently the Principal, D.A.V.P.G. College, Azamgarh, for permitting me to undertake this research work and taking pains in planning the work and going through the manuscript. His polite nature and strict directives enabled me to complete this work in time. Though, he is very busy in college affairs, he was always there to solve the problems of my research work when ever it was required. I, with folded hands, express my indebtedness to him.

It would have been very difficult to complete this work without the able guidance, scholarly vision, valuable suggestions, planning of experiments, stimulating discussions and critical persuit of the work by my Co-supervisor Dr. Abhay Raj Saxena, Lecturer, Deptt. of Botany, D.A.V.P.G. College, Azamgarh for which I will remain grateful throughout my life.

I pay my sincere regards to Dr. H. K. Azmi, Co-supervisor, Reader Deptt. of Zoology, S.N.P.G. College, Azamgarh for helping and discussing the problems at length.

I am thankful to Sri Swapan Kumar Roy, Sri Dinesh Chandra Saxena and Dr. Anoop Kumar Srivastava, Readers, Deptt. of Zoology, D.A.V.P.G. College, Azamgarh for their timely suggestions and words of encouragement.

Words can not describe the encouragement, help and fatherly affectionate behaviour of Dr. Virendra Singh, Principal, S.M.R.D.P.G. College, Bhurkura, Ghazipur, during the course of the compilation of this work. I express my indebtedness to him who virtually forced me to under take the research work.

I am thankful to Dr. Ranjeet Singh, Chief Proctor and Dr. Gangeshs Prasad Dwivedi, Vice Principal, S.M.R.D.P.G. College, Bhurkura, Ghazipur, for their constructive criticism.

My special thanks are due to Dr. J. P. Vishwakarma, pathologist, Hind Pathology, Matbarganj, Azamgarh who helped me a lot in isolation and identification of the test pathogen. I am also thankful to Sri Uday Raj, Artist and Photographer for taking snaps and producing real effects in the photographs.

I can't repay, as others, the love, affection, care, sacrifices, encouragement and silent blessings of my respected mother Smt. Sharda Devi.
The blessings and assistance of my brothers, Sri Arvind Singh, Sri Govind Singh Gautam, Sri Dhananjay and Sri Dharamveer Singh; sisters, Smt. Prabha Singh, Smt. Anita Singh and Smt. Suneeta Singh, proved boon to me, in the compilation of this work.

I am grateful to Sri R.P. Yadav, Librarian, D.A.V.P.G. College, Azamgarh, Sri Ram Singar Singh, Librarian and Sri Jitendar Singh, Asstt. Librarian S.M.R.D.P.G. College, Bhurkura, Ghazipur, for providing Library facilities and required literature to compile this work.

I will be failing in my duties if I forget the motherly treatment, care and affections of Smt. R. B. Saxena, Smt. Punita Kumar, Dr. (Smt.) R. R. Saxena, Smt. Mukta Saxena and my respected Bhabhi Smt. Poonam Singh that gave strength to work hard.

I can never forget all time helps and active cooperation of my seniors Dr. Rajesh Kumar Singh, Dr. Ramakant Yadav and Dr. Deepak Kumar Srivastava; my research colleagues Mr. Heera Lal Yadav, Mr. Ravindra Kumar Sahani, Mr. Santosh Kumar Upadhyay, Smt. Malini Saxena and Smt. Vandana Lal, for which I will remain ever obliged. I, specially thank Sri Munshi Ram, Lab. Attendant, Deptt. of Zoology, S.M.R.D.P.G. College, Bhurkura, Ghazipur, for his cooperation.

I am very much thankful to Mr. Rishi Raj and Mr. Praveen Pandey for taking keen interest in computerized typing of the manuscript.

I am thankful to my friends, Dr. Dharmendra Pratap Srivastava, Dr. Diwaker Singh, Mr. Manish Tiwari, Mr. Ravi Pratap Singh, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Mr. Sanjay Pandey, Dr. Santosh Mishra and Dr. Ishwar Singh for their help whenever required.

I wish to express my deep sense of appreciation to my wife Smt. Sima Singh and little son Om and nephews Anshuman Singh and Anshu Singh whose silent sacrifices, patience, cooperation, love and affections have been the sole source of encouragement which enabled me to complete this work.

(Balbir Singh) 10th of Dec. 2005

(Balbir Singh)