An endeavour of this kind can not be accomplished without several guiding and helping hands. On completion of my doctoral research, while tracing back the past, I feel it as a greatest privilege bestowed upon me to work under the Supervision of Dr. J.P.N. Singh, Reader & Head Department of Zoology, R.G.R.G. College, Singramau, Jaunpur. I take the opportunity to put on record my deep sense of gratitude and obligation towards him for suggesting me the topic of research, for his able guidance, invaluable suggestions, constructive criticisms, timely advices and also for the interest shown by him throughout the tenure of this work. He has inculcated me the values of hard-work, dedication, focus and speed. His humanitarian outlook has left an everlasting imprint on my mind. My appreciation also goes to Mrs. Usha Singh W/o Dr. J.P.N. Singh for her warm support and encouragement.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Co-Supervisor, Dr. V.B. Singh, Reader Department of Zoology and Dr. R.C. Gupta, Reader & Head Department of Zoology, T.D.P.G. College, Jaunpur, for providing the necessary facilities and their sustained encouragement. I am very grateful to the authorities of CDRJ, Lucknow, for granting permission to use light microscope and camera and especially to Dr. P.K. Mehrotra, Deputy Director, Division of Endocrinology, Central Drug Research Institute of India, Lucknow for his excellent guidance and technical assistence.
I am thankful to Dr. Arun Singh, Principal, T.D.P.G. College, Jaunpur and Dr. R.S. Singh, Principal, R.H.S.P.G. College, Singramau, Jaunpur for the permission to work in the department and for continued interest in my research work.

My indebtedness to Prof. Jagdish Ojha (Rtd.), Department of Zoology, Bhagalpur University, Bhagalpur; Prof A.K. Mittal and Dr. Swati Mittal, Department of Zoology, B.H.U., Varanasi is out of bounds, whose candid support and selfless perseverance made this work easy and interesting. I take the pleasure of expressing my gratitude towards Ms. Madhu Yashpal, Mrs. Usha Kumari, Ms. Vijyalakshy, Mr. Pranveer Singh, Research Scholars, Department of Zoology, B.H.U., Varanasi for their keen interest, affectionate behaviour, fruitful suggestions, valuable criticisms and whole hearted co-operation. I register my special thanks to my colleagues Mr. Anil Kumar, Mr. Ashutosh Kumar Singh, Mr. Ashok Maurya and to my Junior colleagues Mr. Suneel Singh, Mr. Anand P. Chauhan and Mrs. Archana Singh.

I find myself short in words to express my indebtedness to my father, Mr. Subodh Kumar Mishra and mother, Mrs. Riddhi Mishra, for their love and constant support throughout the tenure of my research. It is due to their blessings that my research work has come out in this form.

I bestow my humble gratitude to my father-in-law, Dr. Harish Chandra Tiwari and my mother-in-law Mrs. Rajni Tiwari whose towering inspiration never failed to provide me with moral support to carry out this work.
My sincere appreciation is due to my brother, Mr. Prashant Mishra, sister, Pallavi Mishra for their constant inspiration at every step of my research work.

Last but not the least, this page would remain incomplete without acknowledging the constant encouragement, moral support, sincere contribution and endless sacrifices made by my husband, Er. Anurag Tripathi throughout the period of this academic pursuit. He has allowed this work to become a member of the family and lived with me through the tribulation of writing the thesis.

My sincere apologies to all the fishes killed by me for thesis.

Nidhi Mishra