ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My profound gratitude and greatest obligation are extended to Dr. Sumit Homechaudhuri, Professor in Zoology, University of Calcutta in recognition to his guidance during this work and for giving me an excellent insight of the programme and its objectives. I am deeply indebted in recognition to his affectionate guidance during this work. I am fortunate enough to share excellent times discussing the discernment of this programme with him.

I also feel deeply indebted to Prof. S. Roy, Prof. S. Homechaudhuri, former Head of the Department and Prof. G.K. Saha, present Head of the Department, Department of Zoology, University of Calcutta for providing me the opportunity to pursue my research work.

I would also like to express regardful acknowledgements to the entire faculty members of Department of Zoology, University of Calcutta. Thanks are also due to all the Ph.D. committee members, Department of Zoology, especially Prof. S. Banerjee, former convener of Ph.D. committee, Prof S. Chakraborty, former co-ordinator of UGC-SAP Programme, University of Calcutta, for their support and perceptive recommendations.

I also express high respect for all my teachers from whom I have imbibed the best scientific traits. I am grateful to Prof. Ruma Pal, Department of Botany, University of Calcutta, Dr. Ajoy Ghosh, former Director, Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore, Dr. Debasish Mazumdar, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya for their criticism and valuable suggestions. I am also profoundly appreciative of their confidence in me.

I am very much indebted to the University Grants Commission, Research Fellowship for Meritorious Students (UGC-RFSMS) for providing me the fellowship during the tenure.

The word ‘thanks’ is not enough to express my regards to all my past and present lab mates, Madhumita di, Sankha da, Aniruddha da, Krishna di, Mousumi mam, Shyamali di, Rajarshi da, Srerarna di, Rajrupa di, Subhasree di, Bidisha di, Niloy, Suman da, Sameek da, Sudeshna, Munmun, Shilpa, Anisa, Sruti, Surajit, Subharthi and Adwitiya for their patience
to deal with me. Their presence has somehow perpetually refreshing and helpful. I am also thankful to Sudeshna di and Nilofer of Department of Botany for their cordial and continuing help throughout my work.

I would like to convey my sincere thanks to Zoological Survey of India, Fish section for generous assistance in identification of fish species. I also express my appreciation to Agricultural Training Centre, Ramkrishna Mission Ashrama, Narendrapur, Kolkata for his generous assistance throughout the field experiments.

I would like to acknowledge to the fisher men, Panchayet members, and villagers specially Gobinda da and Boudi in Jhorkhali, Sundarbans for carrying out the field work in various adverse situations.

I am grateful to my parents, my sister, my husband, father in law, mother in law, brother in laws, uncle, aunt and sister in law, for their unflagging love, support and constant encouragement throughout my life; this dissertation is simply impossible without them. Their continuous interest in my progress and their suggestions, insights and invaluable thoughts helped me to proceed. My appreciation also goes to all my friends and well-wishers for their constant encouragement.

Above all, I acclaim my prayer to the omnipotent for being there with me always.

Atreyee Chaudhuri