ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It gives me great pleasure to bring this enterprising task of research which is an outcome of unrelated efforts and hard work of many whose names are follow and still more who will be long cherished into my memory. The present thesis is, thus a joint endeavor of performers on the stage and none the laws hidden behind the curtain.

Foremost I greatly indebted to my Research Guide Dr. Santosh M. Nikam, and Co-guide Dr. Ashok E. Desai, for their continuous constructing suggestions, motivation in and off the field and all sort of help during this Research work.

I am grateful to Dr. D.M. Dhonde, Principal, K.T.H.M. College, Nashik and Dr. P.R. Bhamre, Head, Department of Zoology, K.T.H.M. College, Nashik for providing me all necessary facilities during the tenure of research work. My sincere and wholehearted thanks to Dr. Sachin A. Gurule for his constant help, support and encouragement throughout the research work.

I am very thankful to my colleagues Sonali Deore, Kirti Jadhav and Manjushree Bhagwat for their help and support during laboratory work and various stages of the study. The co-operation rendered by non-teaching staff of Zoology department, K.T.H.M. College is gratefully acknowledged.

I take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to my father Haribhau Gangurde for his continuous support and wholehearted encouragement. I am equally thankful to my mother Suman, my brother Deepak, and sisters Seema and Sarita. I am also thankful to my father in law Pandharinath Shewale and mother in law
Kusum Shewale for their cooperation; sacrifice without them I could not complete the thesis.

Finally, it is my pleasures to express my deep sense of gratitude to my dear husband Dr. Sushil Shewale who has been the constant source of inspiration to me whenever I felt quitting out of discouragement following hard work. I also express my thanks to my loving son Aaditya for his sacrifice during the completion of thesis.

Place : Nashik

Date : 10. 06. 2016

Gangurde Jyoti Haribhau
(Research Student)