ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is a privilege to express my deep sense of gratitude and sincere appreciation to Prof. D.C Ray, Head, Department of Ecology and Environmental Science, Assam University, Silchar for his valuable guidance and keen supervision during the course of my Ph.D works.

I extend my profound gratitude to Prof. B.K Dutta, Dean. School of Environmental science, Assam University, Silchar.

My sincere acknowledgements are also due to all the faculty members of the department for their encouragement and all the non-teaching staffs for their cooperation.

I am thankful to Tea Research Station, Silcoorie for providing me meteorological data.

My thanks are also due to Late Dr. Ranabijoy Gope for his valuable help in statistical analysis and to all the research scholars of the department for their extended help and support in field and laboratory works.

Thanks are also due to the farmers those who provided field facilities and the cultivators those who shared their views regarding the practices of traditional pest management.

It would have been impossible to complete the study without the encouragement, inspiration and support of my parents (Mr. N. Bhagaban Singh and Mrs. N. Ibempishak Devi) and my husband Thiyam Sudip. I am indebted to all my family members for their support.

NINGOMBAM SHARANKUMARI DEVI