I deem it a great privilege on my part to express my sincere regards and deep sense of gratitude to my respected supervisor, Dr. A.R. Khuda Bukhsh, Reader, Department of Zoology, University of Kalyani for proposing the present problem, as well as for his affectionate and meticulous guidance, constant supervision, untiring effort and encouragements throughout the whole period of my investigation. I take pride to be associated with him, a personality with noble human qualities, dignified virtues and impeccable ideologies. Words would not suffice to extend my obligations to him.

I am grateful to the authorities of University of Kalyani, for the financial support of the work and also to the consecutive Heads of the Department of Zoology for providing laboratory facilities.

My sincere thanks are also due to Dr. (Mrs) Amiya Khuda Bukhsh for her motherly affection, encouragements and kind help rendered to me during the course of my investigation.

I express my sincere gratitude to Prof. Sashi Wadhwa, Head, Department of Anatomy, Dr. Taposh Das and Dr. T.C. Nag, Department of Anatomy, Electron Microscope Facility, AIIMS, New Delhi for their valuable suggestions, and co-operations during my EM works in Delhi.

I am also indebted to Dr. S.N. Kundu, Reader, Department of Zoology, for his help in interpreting histological preparations.

I am highly grateful to Dr. Anupam Chatterjee, Reader, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong for providing laboratory facilities for a part of the work and for his valuable scientific suggestions and amiable gesture.

Grateful acknowledgements are made to staff members of National Medical Library, New Delhi, Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata, Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata, and Bose Institute, Kolkata for providing library facilities.

I am indebted to Dr. S. P. De, Dr. B. N. Chakraborty, Dr. R. N. Chakraborty renowned homeopathic physicians, Kolkata, for their valuable support and suggestions regarding the use homeopathic medicines and to Mrs. Reshmi Pradhan, Assistant Station Director, National Doordarshan, Kolkata, for her keen interest in this work. I am also thankful to Dr. Debasis Sarkar, Kalyani, for his encouragement.

I owe a great deal to Dr. Kartick Mohanty for his constant encouragements, valuable suggestions and also to Dr. Ranajit Karmakar for his advice in handling some of the finer points with regard to biochemical study.

A special word of thanks to my laboratory colleagues Dr. Palash Mallick and Dr. Jayati Chakrabarti for their lively company, suggestions and help in certain aspects of photography and computer handling. Thanks are also due to Dr. Bibhas Guha, Ms Papri Chandra, Mr Jayanta Das and Mr Surojit Pathak for rendering support during my times of
need. I would also like to thank Mr. Rajkumar Sarkar for various services rendered throughout the course of investigation.

I would like to thank Rudra Roy and Bhaskar Banerjee for constant support and encouragement. My thanks are also due to Mr Soumen Kar, Scientist, Nuclear Science Center, New Delhi, Rajesh Thakur, Arpita Talukdar, Lopamudra Nandy, Geeta Bose and Sanjib Ray for their hospitality during my visit to their places. I would like to thank all my hostel mates for their lively company, and help. I should also eulogize Mr. Alok Samal, Mr Zia-ul Alam, Sudip Das, Malay Mandal, Amritlal Mandal, Nithar Ranjan Madhu, Kalyanbrata Santra, Palash Chakraborty, Partha Mukherjee and Swapan Samanta, for their co-operation and lively company during the whole period of my investigation.

Finally no words can express the sense of gratitude I owe to my parents without whose co-operations, blessings and constant inspiration, it would not have been possible to complete this piece of work.

(SURJYO JYOTI BISWAS)