ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I deem it a great privilege on my part to express my sincere regards and deep sense of gratitude to my respected supervisor, Prof. A. R. Khuda Bukhsh, Professor, Department of Zoology, University of Kalyani, for proposing the present research problem, as well as for his affectionate and meticulous guidance, constant supervision and encouragement throughout the period of my work and for providing laboratory facilities which enabled me to carry out the multitude of works embodied in the present thesis.

I express my indebtedness to Dr. (Mrs) Amiya Khuda Bukhsh for her motherly affection, encouragements and kind help rendered to me during the course of my investigation.

I owe a deep sense of gratitude to Prof. T. C. Nag, Associate Professor, Department of Anatomy, Sophisticated Analytical Instrumentation Facility (SAIF), AIIMS, New Delhi, for his valuable suggestions, co-operation and guidance during my visit to Delhi.

I am thankful to the Head and to all the teachers and non-teaching staff members of this department for their kind co-operation and inspiration during the course of this investigation.

The kind co-operation and inspiration of all the research scholars of this department is gratefully acknowledged. My heartfelt congratulations goes to my lab mates Dr. Jayanta Kumar Das, Dr. Surjyo Jyoti Biswas, Dr. Surajit Pathak, Susanta Roy Karmakar, Nandini Bhattacharjee, Pathikrit Banerjee, Antara Banerjee, Saili Paul, Sushil Kumar Mandal, Soumya Sundar Bhattacharyya, Soiful Molla, Raklim Biswas, Durba Das, Suman Dutta, Surojit Sengupta, for their lively company, utmost co-operation and useful suggestions during the course of my work.

I would also like to thank Mr. Raj Kumar Sarkar and Nandalal Jha for various services rendered throughout the course of my investigation.
I am also thankful to my friends Indrajit Nandi, Arnab Gupta Majumder, Samir Maity, Chandan Rana, Manas Maity, Indranath Chakraborti, Dulal Ponda, Dr. Aritra Pal and others for their co-operation and kind suggestions during the course of my work.

A special word of thanks to Miss. Moumita Sarkar for her constant support and encouragement during my research work.

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

Place: Kalyani.


(Sandipan Chaki Choudhury)