Acknowledgement

My thesis would be incomplete if I do not mention a few words of gratitude towards all who helped me in my endeavors. I am indebted to my supervisor Prof. Dilip Kumar Khan, Department of Environmental Science, University of Kalyani, Kalyani for his valuable guidance, excellent supervision and constructive suggestions, which helped me a lot to pursue this research work smoothly. Without his support, enthusiasm and encouragement, this thesis would not have been materialized. I have been given full freedom to conduct research in this field. I have high regards for him for giving enough space to my ideas and suggestions, at the same time giving a right shape to those ideas whenever required. His continuous help and useful advice during the course of my doctoral program are humbly acknowledged.

I convey my sincere thanks to Prof. Subhas Chandra Santra, Department of Environmental Science, University of Kalyani, Kalyani for being so kind to provide me valuable suggestions and constructive ideas during my doctoral program.

I am also thankful to Mr. Bura Singh, Sudip Pradhan and Subhajit Bhar who helped me in field survey and conducting phytosociological analysis in the field, Matha Protected Forest, Purulia.

I convey my sincere thanks to Mr. Subrata Mukhopadhyay, Principal Scientist of National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land use Planning, Mr. Pankaj Chakraborty and my friend Partho Pratim Mandal who helped me in preparing maps for my work.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the other faculty members Dr. Soma Mukherjee (H.O.D.), Dr. Rina Bhattacharya, Prof. Debasis Das and all staff members of Department of Environmental Science, University of Kalyani, Kalyani for their kind support during the study period.
Words seems to be inadequate to express my deep gratitude to my parents Sri Sabyasachi Biswas and Smt. Sucheta Biswas for being with me whenever and wherever I needed them with full moral support.

I am also thankful to the University Grants Commission, Government of India for the financial support to carry out the research work under RFSMS. I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to Mr. Ujjal Bhattacharya, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife, West Bengal), Mr. Kalyan Das, District Forest Officer, Purulia, West Bengal who granted me the permission to carry out the research work in the protected area. In this connection I like to mention the name of Mr. Raghunath Das, Range Officer and Mr. Hiren Mahato, Beat Officer who always accompanied me during field survey and provided me various informations.

I like to record my thanks to Nandini di, Nimai, Sourav da, Alok da, Piyal da, Jayjit da, Santanu da, Satabdi, Palash, Rishiparna, Amit, Santanu and Ananda for their constant support and I am also thankful to Ram da and Debu for providing refreshment whenever required.

I wish to convey my thanks and respect to Anirban for not only accompanying and helping me out for the completion of my work but also for his constant support and throughout the way he has been an inspiration.

(Saroni Biswas)