ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It gives me immense pleasure to express my gratitude to my guide
Dr. N. B. Pandhure, Assistant professor, Department of Botany, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad. He patiently provided the vision, encouragement, support and guidance necessary for me to proceed through the research program. I wish to sincerely thank him for his advice, constructive criticisms and all the valuable suggestions.

I am also grateful to Dr. Arvind Dhabe, Professor and Head, Department of Botany, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad for his encouragement and administrative help time to time.

I would always remain thankful to my teachers for their continuous encouragement. I am grateful to Professor R. A. Satpute, Professor & Head, Department of Botany, Government Institute of Science, Nagpur, Professor Ashok Chavan Sir, Professor R. M. Mulani sir for valuable suggestions and encouragement. I am thankful to my senior research colleagues, lab colleagues for their encouragement and support during this work. I owe my sincere thanks to my friends for understanding difficulties and encouragement in many crucial moments. I cannot list all the names here, but you all are always on my mind.
Technical assistance of Shri. Vijay R. Lakwal for photography and other help is gratefully acknowledged. Last but not least I express my deep sense of gratitude to my mother, Smt. Vimal S. Kharate and my father Shri. Sheshrao R. Kharate, my younger Twins brother Dinnu and Pammu and my beloved wife Smt. Sanjivani M. Kharate along with my beautiful son SHIVAM (Virat) for their love and support.

I am thankful to administrative staff of University and non-teaching staffs of Department of Botany, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad for their kind help in my research work. As I may unintentionally skip somebody, I thank them in the first place, everyone who felt “forgotten” after reading this. Thanks to the Almighty without whose grace anything could have been accomplished.

MR. MANGESH SHESHRAO KHARATE