ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost I express my profound and deep sense of gratitude with due regards to my most reversed, erudite, leaned and esteemed supervisor Dr. S.K. Bhardwaj, Reader, Department of Zoology, Ch. Charan Singh University, Meerut. I am lucky enough to have this golden opportunity to express my ravishingly benevolent, indebtedness to my whole of the zoology department for their constant co-operation and careful guidance from time to time along with esteemed supervisor Dr. Sanjay Kumar Bhardwaj as a source of constant inspiration to me in near future.

I am extremely thankful and highly obliged to express my deep sense of gratitude to all of my respected teachers Prof. S.V.S. Rana, Prof. S.S. Lal, Prof. H.S. Singh and lastly but least Dr. A.K. Chaubey for their constant source of enthusiastic inspirations, encouragement and constructive criticism time to time throughout my study period, without which my present status never assumed this shaped and I may not find myself at this destination.

With great reverence, I take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to Prof. Vinod Kumar and Dr. Sangeeta Rani, Department of Zoology, Lucknow University, Lucknow, directions and benevolent help through the research work leading to the completion of thesis. I am highly indebted to them for his enduring and persistent efforts to inspire research aptitude and keenness for work of research.

Many people have helped me in different ways, which I thankfully acknowledge. Especially, I would like to thank Dr. Sudhi Singh, Dr. Shelly Malik and Dr. Amit Kumar Trivedi for their interest in my work, and my junior Dinesh Kumar Sharma, Arvind Kumar, Anshu, Neelam, Nitin and all my freinds for their help in the final days of the thesis.

Words are too inadequate to express my deep sense of gratitude to my father Sh. Rajendra Singh and my mother Ms. Ila Singh, whose love and blessings have not aided me in my present work but will remain with me to treasure for the rest of life. I am heartly thanks to my beloved husband Mr. Hemant Gaur, whose support enable to complete my work and my brother, Sonu.
I am indebted to all my family members for their unfailing support and constant encouragement to my endeavours. I am also thankful to my father-in-law Mr. S. K. Sharma and my mother-in-law Ms. Kusum Sharma.

This work was carried out during the tenure of Senior Research Fellowship of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi, provided through a research grant to Dr. S. K. Bhardwaj.

(ANUSHI)