ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There are lots of people that I would like to thank, who have helped me in every way possible to make my dream a reality.

Firstly, I would like to thank my supervisor, Dinabandhu Sahoo, Department of Botany, University of Delhi. I could not have imagined having a better mentor for my PhD. and without his encouragement, knowledge and thoughtfulness this work would not have been complete. I am extremely fortunate to start my research career under his guidance. I express deep sense of gratitude to him for guidance, insightful conversations in guiding me and freedom, which not only helped me in the development of scientific abilities but also in my personal attitude. His sincerity, dedication, discipline and insightful conversation greatly facilitate me in development of a scientific perspective. His caring attitude and intellect have motivated me a lot and it would be matter of pride for me to have his advice and interaction in my future endeavors. I would like to thank once again Dinabandhu Sahoo for his kind support which made our lab my second home.

My sincere thanks with due respect to Prof. S.C. Bhatla, Head, Department of Botany, University of Delhi, Delhi for his constant cooperation, providing a peaceful environment and research facilities during present study.

No words of appreciation would be enough to Dr. Vishnu Bhatt and Dr. P.L. Uniyal, my research advisors for their valuable suggestions during my research work.

I want to express my special and heartfelt thank to my seniors Dr. Pooja and Dr. Saswati for their suggestions and providing necessary inputs during my research work from the beginning; Dr. Pranita for enriching me with her knowledge. I also like to acknowledge Dr. Sreekanth for giving valuable suggestion while checking my drafts. On this occasion I would like to acknowledge the overwhelming support from my entire colleague, Mr. M. Arunjit, Mr. Savindra, Ms. Sonia, Mr. Gaurav and Ms. Priyanka for unconditional help, healthy criticism and encouragement during drafting and redrafting of manuscripts. Mr. Nitin, Mr. Arvind, Mr. Vivek, Ms. Tashi and Ms. Shivani for their enthusiasm during my research.
I express my gratitude to all the faculty members of Botany Department, Central Science Library and Central Instrumentation Facility (CIF) for their cooperation in the form of literature and other basic facilities. I express my gratitude to Mr. S. K. Dass for his help in photography. My thanks are also due to Mr. Mukesh for his help during the period of my research.

I would like to thank my dear friends Chevictoria, Priyabala, Kim, Sonia and Masrat for all the fun time in the hostel and food experiments we had and making my research a lively time.

An individual is the reflection of his/her family. My parents have been the constant source of motivation, encouragement and compassion for me throughout my life. No words can suffice for the mammoth hope, prayers, belief and unremitting desire that my parents harbor. This is just a step towards the unveiling of their dream. I am very grateful to my brothers Bishwajeet and Satyajit, sisters Nandini and Sonia for their encouragement and motivation. Moral support given by my sister-in-laws (enammasarita and enammamona) is acknowledged. My brother-in-law Hamlyn for never letting me feel that I am a lone warrior. My special gratitude to Wayne my wonderful, kind brother-in-law for taking out his valuable time during the compilation of the thesis. To my lovely niece (Laijalembo and Leima) and nephew (Mangaal and Chingkhei) for making my life bright when I feel low and dull.

Nekamla thank you for your constant encouragement during my research and publications.

The award of Junior Research Fellowship and Senior Research Fellowship by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, New Delhi, India is highly appreciated.