ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Grateful thanks are due to Prof. P. Kachroo for suggesting the problem and guiding this study. My debt to him for giving me encouragement, advice and all sort of help can not be adequately expressed in words.

To my teacher at Botany department, University of Kashmir, Dr. G. N. Javed and Dr. A. K. Koul I am thankful for advice and helpful suggestions.

Thanks are due to Dr. R. R. Stewart and Dr. S. K. Jain, deputy director, Botanical Survey of India for giving valuable suggestions.
Iam highly thankful to my friends, Dr. Gurcharan Singh and Dr. R.N. Gohil for giving me valuable help. For the statistical analysis of variations, I was immensely helped by Mr. K.K. Koul for which Iam thankful to him. Iam also thankful to Mrs. Rajesh, Miss Ranjana Koul and Mr. A.M. Mir for helping me in the compilation of this thesis.

Thanks are due to the authorities of the herbarium, Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun and Central National Herbarium, Sibpur, West Bengal; Dr. B.K. Bhatt, Scientist Incharge, C.S.I.R branch lab. Srinagar for providing facilities to work in their organisations.

Financial help in the form of Junior and Senior research fellowships from I.C.A.R and C.S.I.R respectively is gratefully acknowledged.

(Bimal Kumar Misri)