ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Inspite of best possible endeavours words fail to appropriately express all my heartfelt gratitude and deep sense of eternal indebtedness to my august teacher and guide Dr. A.M. Mir (Reader (Kashmir University)) for his constant invaluable suggestions, critical comments and encouragement throughout the course of this investigation. I am also greatly indebted to him for his kindness.

I am highly thankful to Dr. A.M. Shah (Reader, CORD) Kashmir University, for proposing the present problem and for his invaluable suggestions and criticism during the present study.

I am greatly thankful to Prof. P. Kachroo (Scientist Emeritus) Kashmir University, Dr. Narendra Gupta (S-2, N.R.L.-I.A.R.I), Dr. P. Ramachandran (I.A.R.I), Dr. Sarboy (S-4, I.A.R.I) and Prof. Mishra (I.A.R.2) for their invaluable guidance, help and suggestions from time to time.

My thanks are due to Prof. M.Y. Qadri (Director CORD, Kashmir University) and Profs. G.N. Javed and S. Farooq (The former and present Head of the Department, Botany, Kashmir University, respectively) for providing the necessary facilities.

I am specially grateful to my dearest friend Ms. Vandna Amla for her incessant help and co-operation during the entire period. I also express my sincere
thanks to my friends, Kuldeep, Irshad and especially to Ravi for their constant and untiring help during the completion of this work.

Finally, I owe a debt of gratitude to my parents, brother, sisters and very especially to my husband, who bore with me and provided continuous encouragement during the moments of despair.

My thanks are also due to Mr. Masood for computerising the statistical data and Mr. Gadroo for typing.

Last but not least, inspite of the best possible endeavours words fail me to appropriately express all my heartfelt gratitude and veneration to Almighty God for His blessings, and to whom I dedicate my work.

(SEEMA BAZAZ)