ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It is with great pleasure that I record my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to Dr. P.K. Khare M.Sc., Ph.D., Department of Botany, Dr. H.S. Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar, under whose guidance the research work was planned and completed.

I must express my indebtedness to Prof. G.P. Mishra for his valuable suggestions throughout this study.

I am also grateful to Prof. K.M. Vyas, Head of the Botany Department, Dr. H.S. Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar for providing the research facilities.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. R.K. Pandey, Forest Botanist, S.F.R.I., Jabalpur for inspiring me to take up this study and rendering me all possible help. I am also thankful to the Chief Wildlife Warden, M.P. for granting me permission for research work.

I am very grateful to Shri H.S. Panwar, Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun for providing me library facilities. Dr. W.A. Rodgers (F.A.O.), Shri V.B. Sawarkar, Dr. A.J.T. Johnsingh and Dr. P.K. Mathur also helped me in various ways for which I am also grateful to them.

I am indebted to Shri G.D. Dwivedi, Supdt., Pench Wildlife Sanctuary who constantly encouraged me and gave me valuable suggestions from his long experience in wildlife. He very kindly lent me his camera for this study.
I express my profound thanks to Dr. P.C. Kothari, D.Sc., Shri Suhas Kumar, I.F.S., Dr. G.K. Agnihotri and Dr. D.P. Tiwari who helped me in so many ways. My thanks are due to Shri P.K. Khatri and Dr. A.K. Bhowmik for doing soil analysis at the D.F.R.I., Jabalpur. Thanks are also due to Dr. J.L. Shrivastava of the S.R.F.I. Jabalpur for his help in the identification of plants.

I am very thankful to Dr. V.K. Yadav for extending all possible help at the time of thesis writing.

My thanks are also due to Shri Rajesh Sharma, Shri Pramod Dubey, Dr. Rajendra Shrivast, Shri Ashok Shukla and Shri J.L. Namdeo for their warm and friendly cooperation.

I am also thankful to Miss Roohi Sadiq, Ku. Smita Pandey, Ku. Sangeeta Keshri and Ku. Anjana Rajput for their cooperation.

This study could not have been conducted without the help of the field staff of the pench sanctuary and for this I am thankful to Shri Subhash Dixit, Shri K.S. Rajput and Shri Vaheed Khan (all game guards) and Shri Rambharos Pathak, Shri Brijlal, Shri Hirem and Shri Pooran (all game watchers).

I express my thanks to all my friends and colleagues specially Shri Rakesh Mishra, Shri S.N. Gautam, Shri A.P. Singh, Shri A.K. Sasmadhia, Shri V.K. Jain, Shri A.K. Joshi and Shri K.S. Patta for their interest in my work.

I am very grateful to Dr. S.S. Naikde and his family for their warm and affectionate encouragement throughout the study.
I am also thankful to my wife Pratibha who, exercising her utmost patience, encouraged me to pursue this study.

I offer my profoundest gratitude and affectionate regards from the core of my heart to my Parents whose blessings saw me through this work.

[Signature]
(Rakesh Shukla)