ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is my pleasure to record my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to my supervisor Dr. Y.N. Sahai, M.Sc., Ph.D., F.A.Z., F.A.E.B., Reader, Department of Zoology, Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar, for his inspiring guidance, valuable advice and constant encouragement all through the completion of this work.

I am highly obliged to Dr. B.K. Srivastava, Professor and Head, Department of Zoology, Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar, for sustained encouragement and the generosity and kindness for extending all facilities for my research work in this department.

My sincere thanks are due to Professor R.S. Saini, Professor H.N. Bhargava and Professor R.K. Shrivastava, retired Heads, Department of Zoology, Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar, for their suggestions and affectionate encouragement throughout the course of my research. I am also grateful to Dr.(Mrs.) S. Sahai, Reader, Department of Zoology, Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar, for constant encouragement, constructive and helpful comments and affectionate interest throughout the progress of the work.

I would like to express my thanks to Professor, K.C. Nair, Principal, S.S.L. Jain College, Vidisha, Dr. O.N. Seth, Professor and Head, Dr. R.C. Saxena, Lecturer, Department of
Zoology, S.S.L. Jain College, Vidisha, Dr. J.D. Sharma, Asstt. Professor, Department of Criminology and Forensic Science, Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar, Professor, Aravindakshan, Head, Department of Mathematics, M.S.M. College, Kayamkulam, Dr. C.K. Asoka Kumar, Reader, Department of Botany, Regional College of Education, Mysore, and Professor, G. Aravindan, Department of Aquatic Biology, Trivandrum for the encouragement and suggestions given to me from time to time during the progress of this work.

I am grateful to the librarians of Jawaharlal Nehru Library, Sagar, University Library, Trivandrum, National Medical Library, New Delhi, Indian Council of Agricultural Research Library, New Delhi and Delhi University Library, Delhi for making rare books and journals available to me.

My sincere thanks are due to my fellow colleagues Dr. R.S. Plaha, Mr. A.K. Baronia, Mr. Rajiv Agrawal, Miss Rajni Gupta and friends especially Mr. Jagadeesh Chandran G. and Mr. Jagadeesh K.B. for their help and cooperation.

I wish to record my deep sense of gratitude to my father Dr. P. Sreedharan and mother Mrs. A.K. Chellamma and brothers especially Dr. K.S. Mohanlal, who have constantly encouraged me and helped me in every possible way during my studies. I am also grateful to my uncle Mr. A. Sathyanesan for his kind encouragement.

Thanks are also due to Mr. R.R. Rajak and Mr. Johny for typing the thesis neatly.

Harilal
(K.S. Harilal)