ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My persuit for opening the fresh avenues of knowledge may amounts to picking pebbles on the beach, while the previous gain lie hidden at the ocean of learning. The presence of leadership, inspiration and close collaboration of my teachers and colleagues along the way, made my achievement possible. It is my proude privilege to express my deepest gratitude to my supervisor Dr. V.N. Sahai, M.Sc., Ph.D., F.A.Z., F.A.E.B., Reader in Zoology for his keen interest, affectionate guidance and prompt help throughout this work. I consider it, indeed a matter of great fortune to have worked under his supervision.

It is my pleasure to express deep sense of gratitude to my respected teacher Dr. B.K. Srivastava, M.Sc., D.Phil. (Allahabad), Professor and Head of the Department of Zoology, Dr. H.S. Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar (M.P.) for encouragement and suggestions besides facilities of work in the department, where the work was commenced and successfully completed.

My sincere thanks are due to Professor R.K. Srivastava, Retired Head, Department of Zoology, Dr. H.S. Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar, for his suggestions and affectionate encouragement.

I am thankful to Dr. (Mrs.) S. Sahai, Reader in Zoology, Dr. H.S. Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar, who has taken a lively interest in my work and her suggestions have been of immense help to me.

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

There are no words to express my gratitude for the best cooperation of my research colleagues- Mr. K.S. Harilal; Mr. Jagdish C.G. Dr. R.S. Plaha; Mr. A.K. Baronia; Mr. Rajiv Agrawal and Miss Usha Chaturvedi.
I shall fail in my duty if at this juncture, I do not offer my best regards and heartfelt thanks to my respected teacher Shri V.S. Tomar (Retired Principal) without his affection, it was not possible for me to complete this work.

At a more personal level, I owe my indebtedness to my Chachaji Mr. Surendra Suhaney; Mamaji Mr. B.P. Gupta and my elder brother Mr. Rajkumar Dengre for the constant encouragement and boundless affection which I have always received from them. I am also happy to acknowledge here the comfort and encouragement and help given to me by my mummy, younger brothers Mr. Sunil, Mr. Dilip and younger sisters Ms Ranjana, Ruby and Rashmi.

Lastly, but not in the least, I thank all my friends who directly or indirectly helped me during this tenure of my research work.

Thanks to Mr. Shrikrishna Deousker for typing the script and Venus Studio, Sagar, for preparing the photomicrographes.


-RAJNI GUPTA