ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I look upon gratitudes as one of the noblest human attributes. Hence, for the thanks giving is not mere formality but an expression of a grateful heart.

An acknowledgement is usually taken as a customary ritual with which a thesis or any academic work opens. To me, it is more than a ritual performed in the strict grammar of courtesy. At this point of life, I consider it my proud privilege, pleasure, honour and foremost duty to place an record my humble notes of gratitude and indebtedness to all those who stood besides me in the course of my doctoral research.

It gives me great pleasure to record my deepest sense of gratitude and indebtedness to my esteemed supervisor Dr. Subodh Kumar Jain, Sr. Lecturer, Department of Zoology, Dr. H.S. Gour University, Sagar for his inspiring and able guidance, sympathetic, understanding, continuous encouragement and unfailing interest during the entire course of this research work, without his consistent care and affectionate guidance, the present work would not have been possible. He gave his valuable time, good suggestions and whole hearted co-operation for completion and present shape of this work.

I wish to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to my co-supervisor Dr. D.P. Gupta, Professor and Head, Department of Zoology and Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences, Dr. H.S. Gour University, Sagar for providing laboratory facilities and constant encouragement, to carryout this research work.

My sincere thanks are due to Prof. Santosh Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Dr. H.S. Gour University, Sagar and Prof. A.K. Raizada, Department of Zoology, Dr. H.S. Gour University, Sagar for their inspiration and valuable suggestions during the course of the study.

I wish to express my thanks to Prof. S.A. Brown, Principal, Danielson College, Chhindwara and Prof. (Mrs.) W.S. Brown, Dept. of Zoology, Govt. Girls College, Chhindwara for their valuable suggestions and help in time of my need.

I would like to express my heartful thanks to Prof. Ms. K. Keller, Dr. S.M. Chandhok, Prof. M. David, Dr. S.C. Jain, Dr. S.V.S. Thakur, Prof. Sheel C. Jain, Prof. P.K. Swaroop, Dr. W.T.Lall, Prof. (Mrs.) J. Bhargava, Mr. Sharad Stephen, Prof. Mrs. A. Sharma, Mr. K.K. Soni, Mr. R. Nafde &
Mr. A.K. Samuel, Danielson College, Chhindwara for their valuable suggestions, constant encouragement and help in time of my need.

I would like to avail this opportunity to express my heartful thanks to Lt. Col. Raja Shekhar, Officer Commanding, 24 M.P. Bn. NCC, Chhindwara, Dr. Amitabh Pandey, Dept. of Commerce and Mr. Rajendra Mishra, Dept. Of Political Science, Govt. P.G. College, Chhindwara for their help whenever needed.

I register my deep sense of gratitude towards Dr. (Mrs.) Kalpana Jain, Project Associate (UGC Project) Zoology Department, Dr. H.S. Gour University, Sagar for constant inspiration and to give me homely atmosphere. I would like to thank my best friends lovely Savni and Suhina for giving me good company and homely atmosphere during the course of my research work.

It gives me great pleasure to express my sincere gratitude to Mr. R.K. Vyas, Dr. Ms. Sunira Shrivastava (R.A.), Mr. Ashish Pateriya, Mrs. Meeta Mishra, Ku. Sapna Mishra, Mr. Mahendra Chourasia and Mr. Kanhaiya Singh for their co-operation and needful suggestions during my research work.

I would be failing in my duty if I do not express my gratitude to my beloved mother Mrs. Leela Shrivastava, Dr. R.C. Shrivastava (Father-in-law) Mother-in-law, my brothers Dr. Dinesh, Mukesh and Dr. Brajesh, my Elder Sisters, Brother-in-laws, Mrs. Asha, Mrs. Kalpana, Dr. Mrs. Priti, my lovely kids Tanvi & Swapnil who remain as constant source of inspiration, encouragement and blessings that lead me to complete the present work.

I would like to thank my wife Rekha (Asstt. Prof. of Economics, Danielson College, Chhindwara) for her perpetual encouragement in periods of trials and deep devotion and patience during the entire course.

I am grateful to U.G.C. Central Regional Office, Tawa Complex, Bhopal for financial support in the from of Minor Research Project (No.F-4-142 (3)/2000 (MRP/CRO).

I would like to thank Shri R.R. Patel, Network Computers, Civil Lines, Sagar & Mr. Naveen Malviya, Chhindwara for their devoted work in typing my thesis.

Lastly, I wish to apologize for any inadvertent omission of any person who helped me in one way or the other.

Rakesh Shrivastava