Acknowledgement

What makes a task worthwhile and fascinating all along, are the people one interacts with and who ultimately infuse it with a significance, purpose and direction far beyond its intrinsic value. Of the many people who have been enormously helpful in the completion of this work, I would particularly like to thank some distinguished personalities for their encouragement and assistance. To the many others, not specifically named, who have provided me with information, support and encouragement, please be assured that I think of you and thank you.

It is my greatest pleasure to acknowledge with deepest sense of gratitude to Prof. Smita Banerjee, Head, Department of Zoology, Dr. H.S. Gour University, Sagar whose scholarly guidance and critical supervision illuminated the difficult track of my research. I am highly obliged to her untiring help rendered in the critical correction of the manuscript in spite of her busy schedule. Prof. Banerjee’s attitude and patience provided the right kind of support a young research worker needs at the early stage of his career.

It gives me immense pleasure to express my sincere gratitude to my Co-supervisor Dr. M.P. Gupta, Senior Scientist, Department of Entomology, College of Agriculture, Tikamgarh (M.P.) for his effective guidance, encouragement, sustained help in all the field experiments done and their analysis.

The author is highly grateful to Dr. G.S. Rawat, Director, College of Agriculture, Tikamgarh (M.P.) for giving me permission to carry out the work in his organisation extending necessary laboratory and field facilities for experiments during the course of the investigations.

I am thankful to Mr. R.K. Shrivastava, Department of Land Record, District Collectorate, Tikamgarh (M.P.) for his help in measurement of weather parameters.

I am highly thankful to UGC, New Delhi for a financial help, by an award of Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (JRF and SRF).
I am thankful to my co-workers Mrs. Poonam Tiwari, Mr. Ajay Pratap and all my friends for their help and co-operation from time to time during my research work.

I am especially thankful to my beloved parents Mr. D.L. Ahirwar and Mrs. Lalita Ahirwar for their blessings, elder brother Er. K.L. Ahirwar, younger brothers Dr. Chandra Prakash, Mr. Shyam Sunder, Mr. C.L. and Mr. Ghanshyam and my other beloved family members Mrs. Anju Ahirwar and Mr. Shashank (Goldy) for their best wishes and encouragement during the entire course of my research work.

I am also thankful to Mr. Nafis Bhai (Baba Bhaiya) Perfect Computers, Sagar for typing and formatting of my thesis.

I am also thankful to all those who directly or indirectly extended their help during my research work.

Ram Manoher Ahirwar