ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I take this opportunity to express my deep sense of gratitude and sincere thanks to my guide Dr.(Mrs.) Sabitry Choudhury Bordoloi, Associate Professor and Head, Resource Management and Environment Division, Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology, Guwahati, Assam for her relentless and inspiring guidance throughout the period of my work. I am indebted to her for her enormous source of inspiration, motivation and encouragement.

I offer my humble thanks to Dr. Jayanti Chutia, Director, Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology, Guwahati, Assam for allowing me to work in the Resource Management and Environment Division, I.A.S.S.T. and also for providing all the necessary facilities which made it possible to carry on this work.

I offer my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Dhiren Kumar Sharma, Professor and Head, Department of Zoology, Gauhati University for his kind support and encouragement.

I also take this opportunity to offer my profound respect and regards to all faculty members of Department of Zoology, Gauhati University, Guwahati.

I acknowledge the helping attitude and co-operation of all the Research Scholars of Biodiversity laboratory, I.A.S.S.T. in particular Ms. Anjali Baishya, Ms. Tutul Bortamuli, Ms. Sushmita Saha, Ms. Paramita Chakraborty, Ms. Nzano Humtsoe, Mr. Rubul Saikia and Mr. Budhadev Basumatary.

I also gratefully acknowledge the help rendered by the laboratory and Office Staffs in I.A.S.S.T., Guwahati.
I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all my friends of Gandhi Bhawan, Gauhati University in particular Farheena, Zeen, Rupjyoti and Akashi.

I am indebted to Mr. Roshan Kumar Achom, my husband for his selfless support and immense help and encouragement.

Further, I would like to record my deep sense of appreciation to the villagers of Bishenpur district for their help in various stages of field work.

I am obliged to my grandmother, parents, brother and sisters for their constant support and affectionate encouragement.

Date: 29th July 2009

Place: Guwahati

Banita Ningombam