ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I express my overwhelming sense of gratitude and respect to my guide and mentor, Dr. Atanu Kumar Pati, Reader, School of Life Sciences, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur for his excellent and skillful supervision. I am deeply grateful to him for handling the reins of my work so efficiently and making it possible for me to pursue this study.

I am extremely thankful to my co-guide, Prof. Deepak Karkun, Head, Department of Botany, Government Arts and Science College, Durg, for his guidance, valuable comments and helpful suggestions.

I tender my most cordial and appreciative thanks to Prof. M.L. Naik, Head, School of Life Sciences, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur for his keen interest, help and for providing laboratory facilities. I also record my gratitude to faculty members, Dr. V. Rai, Dr. S.K. Mishra, Dr. A.K. Gupta, Dr. Aditi Poddar, Dr. S.C. Naithani, Dr. Vijaya Koche and Dr. Nibha Gupta for their encouragement.

I owe a deep sense of gratitude to Prof. S.M. Agrawal, Ex-Vice Chancellor, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, for invaluable guidance given during the course of this work.

I offer my heartfelt thanks to Prof. K.K. Verma, Retired, Principal, Government Arts and Science College, Durg, for his help and advice during the nascent stage of this investigation.

I am indebted to Prof. J.P. Thapliyal, Retired, Professor of Zoology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi; Prof. M.K. Chandrashekaran, Jawaharlal Nehru Center for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, Dr. K.N. Ganesiah, Department of Plant Genetics and Breeding, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, Dr. R. Gaikwad, Center for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Dr. R. Subbaraj, Department of Animal Behaviour, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, and Prof. C. Halder, Department of Zoology Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, for their helpful evaluation, stimulating criticism and valuable advice regarding this research pursuit.

I am grateful for the interest and taxonomic help provided free of charge by Dr. Linda Miller, Identification Liaison Officer, International Institute of Entomology, London.

I sincerely acknowledge the kind co-operation and laboratory facility provided by Dr. M.W.Y. Khan, School of studies in Geology, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur. I also thank Dr. B.K. Sharma, School of studies in Mathematics and Dr. V.P. Mishra, School of studies in Economics of this University for their encouraging attitude.

My sincere thanks are also due to Dr. M. Ashfaque, Retired, Head Department of Zoology, Government Model Science College, Raipur for helpful suggestions and also for providing referencing facilities. I have also had great benefit from the other teaching staff of Zoology Department here I express my thanks.

My special thanks are due to my research colleagues Dr. Shobha Gupta, Ms. Arti Chandrawanshi, Ms. Elizabeth Varghese, Ms. Renu Maheshwari, Ms. Seema Gupta and Ms. Preeti Mishra for their gracious co-operation and assistance rendered at different phases of my research. Kind cooperation of Dr. Jayant Biswas and Dr. Maya Shedpure, Ms. Geeta Nair and Ms. Sanju Sinha is gratefully acknowledged.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. J.K. Tiwari, Head, Department of Botany, Kalyan Mahavidyalaya, Bhilai Nagar, for his co-operation during my research term. I also express my abiding appreciation to my colleague Ms. Lata M.K. for unrelenting support given during this
Thanks are due to the staff of School of Life Sciences, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur.

I also feel highly obliged to Mrs. Sanjukta Pall for her kind encouragement and good wishes throughout this research tenure.

My special thanks are due to my close friend, Mr. Subir Chowdhary for assisting me during the research survey.

Last but not least, I express my heartfelt thanks to my father, Shri. A.P. Agrawal, mother, Smt. B.D. Agrawal, brother, Lt. Amol Agrawal, sister-in-law, Dr. Alpana Agrawal and sisters, Anjali, Namrata, Joyoti, Aruna and Kiran for valuable support and inspiration at every stage of this research effort.

Arvind Agrawal