ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With much sincerity and humbleness I express my profound sense of gratitude to Prof. A. B. Vora, M. Sc., Ph. D., F. I. E. B., Professor and Head of the Botany Department for suggesting the problem as well as for guidance, constant encouragement and valuable counsel throughout the course of my research work.

I owe a great deal to my parents Mrs. & Mr. P. V. John and other members of the family for their love and affection and for encouraging me to pursue higher studies.

I am highly indebted to Prof. C. K. Shah and Dr. U. H. Acharya for their kind advice and encouragement from time to time.

The help and wholehearted cooperation of my colleagues Dr. P. C. Skariah, Dr. D. J. Mohan, Mr. P. K. Shaji, Mrs. Archana Mankad, Prof. N. D. Rathod, Mr. J. S. Solanki, Ms. Saroja K., Ms. Pushpalatha K., Ms. Jessymol K. A. and Mr. Manucher Thaghui at every step of my work are sincerely appreciated.

I am also to express my thanks to Mrs. & Mr. G. E. Farmar and Mrs. & Mr. Dr. Issac Thomas who have cooperated affectionately during
I would, also take this opportunity to thank Mr. Dhiru J. Divaraniya (Rollwala Computer Center) and Mr. M. Shanmugham (statistics department) for their help in statistical analysis. My sincere thanks are also due to Dr. A. B. Karnik and Mr. U. H. Desai (NIOH, Ahmedabad) for their valuable and timely help in scanning electrophoresis gels.

The meteorological data provided by Meteorological Laboratory, Ahmedabad is gratefully acknowledged.

I wish to record my appreciation for the assistance given by Mr. Roy. K. George in correcting the manuscript. I must also acknowledge with deep appreciation the help and keen interest of my younger brother Mr. Job John in my research work.

The patient cooperation of Mrs. Madhavi Desai in typing successive stages of the manuscript has been of great value. I am deeply grateful to her.

Nebu John.