ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I express my profound gratitude to Prof. Sharif. U. Ahmed Head, Department of Zoology, Nagaland University for his persistent support, encouragement and supervision throughout the process of my present study.

I owe sincere thanks to Prof. P. Lal former Head, Department of Zoology and former Dean, School of Sciences, Nagaland University for permitting access to all the departmental facilities.

I am thankful to the Member Secretary, Central Silk Board, Bangalore; the Director, Central Muga Eri Research and Training Institute, Central Silk Board, Lahdoigarh, Jorhat, and the Joint Secretary, Regional Office, Central Silk Board, Guwahati for granting permission in pursuit of my Doctoral studies.

I am highly grateful to the Assistant Director, Department of Sericulture, Lakhimpur, Govt. of Assam and the District Sericulture Officer, Mokokchung, Govt. of Nagaland for providing experimental sites, space and other logistic support to carry out this research work.

Throughout the process of my research work many well wishers have freely extended their support and shared their valuable knowledge which accrued as source of motivation in completion of the present work. In this respect, I am highly indebted to Prof. N.S. Jamir, Dean, School of Sciences, Prof. S. K. Chaturvedi, Head, Department of Botany, Dr. Bendang Ao, Department of Zoology, Dr. Dipak Sinha, Dr. Upasana Borah Sinha, Department of Chemistry (Nagaland University) and Dr. Bhuban Chandra Chutia, Nowgaon College.

I also express my gratitude to my husband Dr. L.N.Kakati, two daughters, Upasana and Uddipana for their cooperation, understanding, patience and encouragement to complete this research work.

(Binita Tamuly Kakati)