ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I feel fortunate enough to have got myself registered for research work under the benign personality of my esteemed supervisor. The assistance, guidance, healthy working environment and the drive and motion provided by him have finally been achieved in completion of this thesis work for the award of PhD. He provided a great helping hand in finalising and supporting the critical analysis. He has magnificently scrutinized the research work presented herein and incorporated the suggestions as considered necessary. Dr. Rizvi has been a guide, philosopher, and friend.

It is noteworthy that the working environment, exposure to new technology, the intellectual output and correct scientifically coherent occupational orientation with the object of maximized use of skill and talent have been inhibited at my Alma Mater, AMU, Aligarh. I shall always be grateful for this.

I also desire to record my thanks and acknowledge the assistance and guidance extended to me by Chairman/Prof. (Dr.) Akhtar Haseeb whose wise counsel I cherish and feel enriched. I am grateful to my teachers, Drs. R.U.Khan, M.R. Khan, M.S. Ansari, S. Ashraf and M. Saghur Khan (Lecturer, Dept. of Microbiology) for their support and advice whenever needed.

I am indebted to Anis Fatma, Ghazala Yasmin, Nabilah Khan, Manzoor Hussain Dar, Mahesh Pathak and Deshbandhu, who have immensely provided me their precious time, guidance and help.

The service rendered by Dr. K. D. Ghorpade by very generously identifying my syrphid specimens was no less than a milestone. I am extremely grateful to him for the same, as without the identification, my thesis would not have reached this stage.

I am thankful to Mr. Zubair Ahmad (Dept. of Zoology, AMU, Aligarh) for helping me in identifying the parasitoids.

The cooperation of the technical staff members, Mr. A. U. Khan, Mr. Raghib Ali, the others staff members and the labourers who worked hard on the field (Mr. Shakpor, Mr. Sukhiram, Mr. Nand Kishore, Mr. Netra Pal and MS. Laung Shree), is worth mentioning.

I fall short of words to express my love, appreciation, and deep sense of gratitude for my parents who have provided me with constant emotional support and inexhaustible encouragement throughout my academic life.

I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks to Ms. Zeenat Ara Naqvi and Mr. S.W.H. Naqvi for their never-ending blessings.

Lastly, I thank all the people who have directly and indirectly helped me throughout the course of study.

Aligarh, 2003

(Nakihat Ara Naqvi)