ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It immensely gratifies me to record my heartfelt sense of gratitude for Late Prof. Syed Israr Husain, Botany Department, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh who had suggested me a problem of vital interest, extended his guidance, and unceasing encouragement during his life time. He is no more, but he leaves behind, for me, his source of inspiring genius, his good deeds and virtues which shall always adorn my life.

I want to extend my grateful thanks to Prof. A.K.M. Ghouse, Chairman, Botany Department, A.M.U., Aligarh, who generously agreed to take the task of guiding me and also for providing the necessary laboratory facilities.

It is a great pleasure for me to place on record my sincere gratitude to 'Father of Nematology' in India Dr. Abrar Mustafa Khan, Professor Emeritus, Botany Department, A.M.U., Aligarh for critically reviewing this manuscript. His able guidance plentiful worthy suggestions made this work possible. During the entire pursuit of my studies I had the good fortune of enjoying his constant help and advice without which this work would not have been what it is.

I owe a deep debt of gratitude to Professors Khalid Mahmood, M.M. Alam, Zaiuddin A. Siddiqui, Botany Department, A.M.U., Aligarh; Dr. D.R. Dasgupta, Head, Dr. E. Khan, Principal Scientist, Nematology Division, IARI, New Delhi and Dr. Ataul Haque Khan, Head, Dr. Anwar Masood, Botany Department, G.F. (P.G.) College, Shahjahanpur for rendering valuable suggestions, help, inspiration and encouragement.

I am grateful to Prof. S. Andersen, Land Brugents Plantenkultur, Copenhagen, Denmark and Prof. B.N. Mathur,
Nematology Department, Agricultural Research Station, Durgapura, Jaipur for sending seeds of host differentials of oat, wheat and barley to conduct the biotype experiment.

I am also thankful to Drs. Lutfullah, Firoz Mohammad, Tabrez A. Khan, Hisamuddin and Messrs. Abdul Malik, Ali Anwar, Munawar Fazal and S.R.M. Ata for their unceasing and relentless efforts in preparation of this manuscript. Sincere thanks are also due to colleagues and friends for their assistance.

Invaluable help in data analyses, and assistance in photography respectively made by Dr. Mohammad Azam, Computer Centre, Dr. Mohammad Yaqub, Statistics Department and Mr. Q.H. Ansari, Botany Department, A.M.U., Aligarh is gratefully acknowledged.

I am extremely indebted to my parents, wife and little daughter for their patience, sacrifice, encouragement and care during educational growth and preparation of the thesis.

The financial assistance in the form of J.R.F. and S.R.F. from D.S.T., Government of India is gratefully acknowledged.

MOHAMMAD RAIS SIDDQUI