ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I express my profound sense of gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Ziauddin A. Siddiqui, Reader, Department of Botany, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for suggesting this problem of vital interest, skilful guidance, consistent encouragement, valuable suggestions and affection throughout the course of investigations and preparation of the manuscript.

I feel pleasure in expressing my sound perception of gratitude and esteem to Dr. M. Wajid Khan, Reader and Principal Investigator, DOEn Research Project Department of Botany, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for his critical suggestions, healthy criticism, cooperative attitude throughout the course of study. I am gratefully obliged to him for his unceasing help and going through the manuscript critically.

I am grateful to the Chairman, Prof. A.K.M. Ghouse of the Department of Botany and Ex-Chairman, Prof. Khalid Mahmood for providing laboratory and library facilities to carryout the study successfully.

I am greatly thankful to my colleague Mr. Hisamuddin for his manifold cooperation and unremitting help extended to me during the investigation programme and also to many friends especially Mr. Kaleemullah, Mr. Athar Adil Hashmi,
Dr. Mujahid Ali Khan, Mr. Mahmooduzzafar and Mr. Naimuddin for favour done to me in more than one way.

Financial assistance by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi, through Junior Research Fellowship (October, 1985 to February, 1988) sanctioned in the CSIR Project under supervision of Dr. M. Wajid Khan is greatly acknowledged. I am also thankful to the CSIR, New Delhi for award of Senior Research Fellowship since March, 1988.

I am indebted to my maternal uncles Prof. M.A. Nabi and Prof. M.A. Jani and other family members for their support and blessings which gave me impetus to achieve this goal.

( MOHAMMAD JAHANGIR PASHA )