Acknowledgements

A gratitude appreciation is extended to my supervisor Prof. Ziauddin A. Siddiqui for his supervision and support during the preparation of this manuscript even possessing ill health.

I am thankful to Prof. Samiullah, Chairman, Department of Botany, A.M.U., Aligarh for providing me necessary facilities.

I am specially indebted to (Late) Prof. M.Wajid Khan, ex-chairman and my former supervisor for suggesting the problem, valuable suggestions, empirical approach, fervent guidance and encouragement for this study.

I have no words to express my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Abrar A. Khan, for his moral and material support, enduring interest and encouragement which were always available to me whenever I needed it most. I am sincerely thankful to him for being instrumental in inspiring me throughout the study.

I put to record my sense of gratitude to Dr. R.P. Singh, Mr. Ashfaque, A.M.U., Aligarh and Prof. P.D. Sharma, Department of Botany Delhi University, Delhi for their moral support and kind cooperation timely.

I express myself to my alter-ego Mr. Raghu (my husband) for his patience, uncomplainable and caring attitude, and feel a sense of pride in expressing my humble thanks and gratitude to him whose constant help, encouragement and moral support were the hall-marks of my research period.

I extol the help rendered by my colleagues and friends Drs. Kamal, Fauzia, Musarrat, Shazia, Peter, Ms. Iram, Deepali, Mr. Mahesh and Mrs. Jyoti. Thanks are also due to all the members of my department for assistance.

Heartiest respect and indebtedness are offered to my beloved father for inexhaustible source of inspiration for this study. My overall success is the result of their affection and sacrificial devotion.
I offer my genuinely owing gratitude to my respected (Late) Grand Pa, Uncles-Prof. J.P.Rawat and Mr. Y.K.Upadhyay, loving sisters- Mrs. Charul, Ms. Jagrati & Pratiksha and rest of the family members for having accorded to me their benedictions from cradle to this day. I feel being privileged while extending my acknowledgement to my reverend parents in law and loving brother in law Mr. Minchi for their affection, blessings and encouragement in the completion of this manuscript.

I decern my genuflexion to my affectionate brother Mr. Lalit for his never forgettable support, suggestions, care, affection and encouragement in my academic pursuit.

Thanks are also due to Mr. Haroon and Md. Shakir for the excellent word processing.

Last but not the least thanks to all near and dear ones, who have boosted me upto, achieve this goal.

Commission and omission are mine, in the shower of God's Mercy.

Era Upadhyay