ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author feels privileged in expressing her profound sense of gratitude and indebtedness to Dr. Mohd Anis, Reader, Department of Botany, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh and (Late) Mr. Z.H. Zaidi, Reader for suggesting the problem and helping in carrying out the studies; and to Dr. M. Anis, Reader in addition to above for critical examination of the manuscript and other help rendered from time to time during these investigations.

She is thankful to, Chairman, Department of Botany, A.M.U., Aligarh for providing the research facilities.

Heartful thanks are also due to Prof. S.K. Saxena, Prof. A.K.M. Ghouse, Department of Botany and Prof. Wazahat Husain (Chairman, Department of Botany) for their kind encouragement and valuable suggestions during the course of studies and preparation of the manuscripts.

Dr. (Miss) Purnima Sinha, Dr.(Miss) Neeti Rohatgi, Dr. (Miss) Anjum Afshan, Dr. Samiullah Khan and my other lab colleagues deserve special thanks for their help, cooperation and critical suggestions during the course of study.

Finally, humble feelings of gratitude are to parents of the author whose encouragement, affection and sacrificial devotion in attaining this goal cannot be forgotten.

The award of Senior Research Fellowship by C.S.I.R., New Delhi is also gratefully acknowledged.