ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I express my deep sense of gratitude and sincere appreciation to my supervisor Professor H.N. Pandey, Department of Botany, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, for his valuable suggestions throughout the course of this study.

I am indebted to my joint-supervisor Dr. A. Arunachalam, Department of Forestry, North-Eastern Regional Institute of Science & Technology, Itanagar, for his constant encouragement and guidance throughout the course of the study. I remain grateful to him for his tireless effort and help rendered to me in successful completion of the research.

I extend my gratitude to Professor K. Kumar, Director, NERIST for his encouragement, and to Dr. (Mrs.) P. Rethy, Head, Department of Forestry, NERIST and Head of the Department of Botany, NEHU, Shillong for extending necessary facilities during the course of study.

My grateful thanks are to Professor R.S. Tripathi, Dr. S.K. Barik and Dr. Uma Shankar Department of Botany, NEHU, for their support and constructive suggestions throughout the study.

I am grateful to the faculty of the Department of Forestry, NERIST especially Dr. M.L. Khan, Dr. (Mrs.) K. Arunachalam, Dr. B. Singh, Dr. S.C. Tiwari and Dr. G. S. Solanki for their valuable help and also to Dr. N.D. Singh, STA for his kind cooperation.

I remain grateful to Mr. B. Saikia, Mr. P. Basumatry, Mr. M. Chuita and Mrs. M. Chaudhury for their help and assistance. It is a pleasure to acknowledge help received from Mr. J. Saikia, Mr. M. Ingti and Mr. B. Basumatry in laboratory and field.

I thank Dr. P. R. Gajurel, Dr. A. Devi, Mr. P.C. Nath, Mr. S. Dev, Mr. D. Adhikari, Miss. T. Das, Dr. L.B. Singh, Mr. A. Paul, Dr. S. Thanjiganj, Mr. M. Mazumdar, Mr. B. I. Chaudhury and other labmates of Forestry Research Laboratory, NERIST for their kind cooperation and constructive criticisms.

I extend my sincere thanks to all the Research Scholars of Ecology Laboratory, Department of Botany, NEHU especially Dr. O. P. Tripathi, Dr. K. Upadhaya, Dr. S. D. Prabhu, Dr. V. Ralte and Miss. B. Ghosh for their help throughout the study.

Dr. K. Haridassan helped in identification of plant specimens and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Assam and Divisional Forest Officer, Dibrugarh, Assam gave permission and provided facilities during field study. I express my grateful thanks to all of them.

Financial assistance received from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India, New Delhi in the form of a research grant (Sanction No 14-26/98-MAB-RE, Dated 02-03-2001) is thankfully acknowledged.

I am deeply indebted to my parents, sisters, brothers and relatives and well wishers who encouraged me throughout the course of this research.

I am thankful to my wife Mrs. S. Zian Imdad for her moral support and encouragement.

Last but not the least I thank the Almighty, who blessed me with power and strength to complete the present research.

Shillong
Dated: The 7th April 2006.

Atiqur Rahman Barbhuiya

(A.R. Barbhuiya)