ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I express my heartfelt thanks to Professor R.S. Tripathi for his able guidance and encouragement throughout the course of this study. Through him, I have been introduced to the wonderful world of Ecology and his inspiration is the key to the success of the present research work.

I offer my grateful thanks to Dr. H.N. Pandey, Reader in Ecology, for his valuable suggestions and comments. My grateful thanks are also due to Mr. Uma Shankar, Dr. A.K. Singh and my other research colleagues in Ecology group for their cooperation and help.

I express my sincere thanks to Pu R. Laichhungha and family, Pu Vanlala and family and Pu Nova and family for allowing me to perform field experiments on their jhum fields. I am very thankful to Thantea and Mapula who helped me a lot in field works.

I am also very thankful to Mr. Laltanpuia, Mr. Rintluanga Pachuau, Mr. R. Lainunsanga, Mr. R. Zarzosanga and many other friends for various help and cooperation.

The laboratory facilities provided by Professors R.S. Tripathi, R.R. Mishra and Y.S. Chauhan, successive Heads, Department of Botany, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, during the tenure of this study are gratefully acknowledged.

I am grateful to Pu Saingenga, Principal, Pachhunga University College, Aizawl, for sparing me to accomplish this task.

I am indebted to my wife Mrs. Lalrinpuii, my mother Mrs. Laikungi and my children - Lalmalsawma, Lalmuanpuii and Lalrinzuala who had to share every ups and downs in the course of this research work.

Financial support received from the University Grants Commission, New Delhi, in form of an award of Teacher's Fellowship is gratefully acknowledged.

Most of all I thank God for granting me courage and strength to undertake and complete this research.

SHILLONG
THE 14th NOVEMBER 1990