ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am highly indebted to my research supervisor Dr. Shujauddin, Professor of Zoology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh for his untiring help, inspiring guidance, valuable suggestions, keen interest in supervision and taking pains in critically going through the thesis. I am very much grateful to Prof. A. M. Khan, Chairman, Department of Zoology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh for providing necessary facilities during research work.

Thanks are due to Dr. S.C. Das, Director, Defence Agriculture Research Laboratory, Pithoragarh for his valuable help. Thanks are also due Dr. P.S. Negi, Scientist; Defence Agricultural Research Laboratory (DARL), Pithoragarh who accompanied me throughout the expedition up to 16000 feet altitude. I express my heartfelt thanks to Commandant Sh. Shyam Malhrotra, his officers and staff who trained me for expedition and provided tentage accommodation and other logistic supports and without whom expedition would have not been possible. I also thank Sh. K.S. Tolia, Block Pramukh, Munsiyari Block (Pithoragarh) for his time-to-time suggestion during expedition and making villagers at all helps.

Last but not the least, I place my special thanks to my parents, brothers, sisters, friends etc. for their constant encouragement during the course of study.

Shahid Sami Siddique