ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I owe a deep sense of gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Syed Israr Husain, Professor, Department of Botany, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh for suggesting me the problem of vital interest. During the course of this work, his constant encouragement, stupendous guidance, critical counsel and fatherly affection was of immense help to me.

I am beholden to Professors Khalid Mahmood and A.K.M. Ghouse, the former and present Chairmen, Department of Botany, A.M.U., Aligarh for providing me laboratory facilities.

I wish to express my sincere obligation to Dr. R.M. Sayre (Research Plant Pathologist, U.S.D.A., Beltsville, Maryland, U.S.A.), and Dr. R. Gherma (American Type Culture collection Rockville, Maryland, U.S.A.) for providing me authentic identification of Bacillus culture.

I am also grateful to a number of my friends and colleagues, especially Messers M.A. Fazal, M.B. Siddiqui, Triq Khan, H.R. Khan, M.I. Khan, M.A. Khan, I. Haque, (Dr.) T.A. Khan, (Dr.) M.A. Siddiqui, M.R. Siddiqui, M. Fazal and Miss Shabana Nisar for their sincere advice and help.

I would like to express my indebtedness to my parents, uncle, brother and other family members for their encouragement, support and care throughout my educational career.

Financial support in the form of J.R.F. and S.R.F. from the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India is also gratefully acknowledged.

( Zaki Anwar Siddiqui )