ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I owe my intellectual debts to my supervisor Dr. Anjum Ara, who offered the unflinching encouragement and support at outset of the work and thereafter. The guidance and encouragement have been very constructive and required extreme hard work most of the times, perhaps all the time. She generously and graciously dispensed with innovative ideas in the form of suggestions and advice given at several steps of experiments, writing and subsequent evaluation.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to my Co-Supervisor Prof. Shameem J. Rizvi, who helped me to complete this work and examined it critically.

I am also obliged to Dr. Waseem Ahmad (Faridi) who has always been a source of inspiration and guidance to me.

A special thanks due to the Chairman, Department of Zoology, Prof. Absar Mustafa Khan for providing the necessary facilities throughout this work.

I take this opportunity to thank the teachers of the Section of Genetics, Prof. M. Afzal and Dr. G.G.H.A. Shadab for their unflagging support and interest.

I am grateful to Prof. Mohammad Hayat, Prof. Asif A. Khan, Prof. Iqbal Parvez, Prof. Irfan Ahmad Dr. Mukhtar A. Khan, Dr. Malik Irshadullah, Dr. Abbas Abidi and Dr. Qudsia Tahseen for their kind support.

I am equally grateful to all the faculty members of my department for their encouragement and blessing.

I am indebted to Prof. Abida Malik, Incharge-Animal House and Prof. Rahat Ali for providing rats, and for granting the Ethical Committee Clearance for this study.

A workable ambience with full support extended by my former colleagues Dr. Md. Niamat Ali, Dr. Md. Abul Farah, Dr. Bushra Ateeq and Mrs. Rubeena Abbas are thankfully acknowledged.

I thankfully acknowledge my present colleagues Huma Jamal, Dr. Farhana Zaheer, Mirza Intiaz Beg, Imrana Tabassum, Shabnum Nabi and Fakhra Amin.
Saba Qayyum deserves special thanks for her valuable suggestions, encouragement and never ending support.

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is acknowledged for providing Senior Research Fellowship through grant no. 09/112 (0412) 2008-EMR-I during the course of this study.

Sincere thanks are due to my seniors Drs. Syed Hasan Arif, Riaz Ahmad, M. Manzur Shah, S. M. Haris and Zubair Ahmad for their moral support and timely help extended to me whenever desired.

Thanks also due to Mr. Fazal-ur Rehman, Deptt. of agriculture for providing microscopic facility for photography and Mr. Fareed, ITRC, Lucknow, Ms. Mehnaz Mazumdar, and Afisa Kausar, Assam University for providing the literature.

I will fail in my duty if I will not recall my friends Mahesh Tiwari and Parag Garg for their kind support and help. I also recall Dr. Mohammad Shamim, Mohammad Mehdî, Ansar Ahmad, M. Hasnul Karim, Irshad Ahmad and M. Razwan-ul-Houque Khan, with whom I shared all my academic burdens.

Words fall short in describing the pains taken by my parents during the whole tenure of the work. Without their constant blessings, affection and the faith they showed in me, this work would not have taken this form. I am also grateful to my sisters Shahnam, Mini and brothers Mr. Ali Mohammad, Hasnain Ahmad, Khursheed and Imran whose encouragement and affection were always a source of strength to me.