ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I express my deep sense of gratitude and sincere appreciation to my Supervisor, Professor R. S. Tripathi FNA, FNASc., Department of Botany, NEHU, for his valuable suggestions, ingenious guidance and constant encouragement throughout the course of this study.

I express my deep sense of indebtedness to my joint supervisor Dr. M. L. Khan, Reader, Department of Forestry, NERIST, for his constant encouragement, keen interest and constructive criticism to complete the study. I am always grateful to him for his efforts that gave me a new dimension in the field of Forestry.

My grateful thanks to Professor H. N. Pandey, Dr. Uma Shankar and Dr. S. K. Barik Department of Botany, NEHU, for their constant support and suggestions throughout the study.

I sincerely thank the Head of the Department of Botany, NEHU for providing necessary facilities during the course of study.

I extend my gratitude to Professor A. L. Verma, Director, NERIST for providing facilities and encouragement.

I also like to express my sincere thanks to Head, Department of Forestry, Dr. (Mrs.) P. Rethy for providing necessary facilities.

I sincerely thank Professor N. P. Todaria for his encouragement and help in site selection.

I am grateful to faculty members, Department of Forestry, NERIST especially Dr. (Mrs) U. Melkania, Dr. Binay Singh, Dr. S. C. Tiwari, Dr. A Arunachalam and Dr. (Mrs.) K. Arunachalam for their valuable support and help and also to Dr. N. D. Singh for his kind cooperation.

I remain grateful to Mrs. P. Saikia, Mr. J. P. Thapa, Mr. M. Chutia and Mr. Pradip Basumatary for their help and kind assistance. It is my pleasure to acknowledge help received from Mr. C. K. Chungkrang, Mr. J. Saikia, Mr. D. Deori and Mr. B. Basumatary in field works.

Thanks are due to Mr. Padmaraj Gajurel, Mr. Suresh Kr. Singh, Mr. Kalidas Upadhaya, Mr. Lalbihari Singh. Mr. Bulbul Gogoi, Mr. N. Chutia, Mr. Awadesh Kumar, Ms. Ashalata Devi, Mr. Simanta Kalita and Ms. T. Das for their kind cooperation and constructive criticism.

I also extend my thanks to all the Research Scholars of Ecology Laboratory, Department of Botany, NEHU for their helping hand. Special thanks to Dr. Babu John, Mr. Krishna Upadhaya, Mr. Om Praksh Tripathi and Ms. Swapna Prabhu for their constant help throughout the study.

Financial assistance received from DST, New Delhi and CSIR (for Senior Research Fellowship award) is gratefully acknowledged.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. S. Trivedi, Divisional Manager, Arunachal Pradesh Forest Corporation, for necessary help during the field study and data collection.

I take the privilege to acknowledge the help received from Dr. K Haridasan, Mr. L. R. Bhuyan, SFRI, Itanagar and their research scholars in identification of the plant specimens.

Moral support received from Ms. Reshma is acknowledged.

Last but not the least, I thank all my family members for their constant inspiration and unstinted support during the course of this study.

(PUTUL BHUYAN)