

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I express my profound gratitude to Dr. K. C. Rajan, retired Principal of Mar Athanasius College, Kothamangalam, for his untiring guidance, constant encouragement, inspiring visit to the study areas during the field work, and constructive criticism at various stages of the study and of preparing the thesis.

Without the scholarly guidelines, directions, and generous incentive of Dr. R. Sugathan, Salim Ali Wild Wings Trust, Zeon East, Mumbai, it would not have been possible for me to undertake the present research, and I deeply beholden to him.

I greatly indebted to Dr. Shaju Thomas, Lecturer, Dept of Zoology, Nirmala College, Muvattupuzha, who showed a personal interest in the study and made improvements in the draft and I am grateful to Dr. Jacob T. M., Dept of Statistics, Nirmala College, Muvattupuza, for his help in the statistical analysis of the data.

I am thankful to The Principal, CMS college, Kottayam, Prof. P. C. John, Head of the Dept of Zoology, CMS college, Kotayam, for providing me the facilities for conducting the research.

My sincere thanks are also due to the officials and Staff of the Kerala Forest Dept (Wildlife) kindly permitted to conduct the fieldwork in the forest

areas. I also thank Mr. K.C. Jacob, Retd. Asst. Wildlife Warden for his loving encouragements during the study.

Asad Rahmani and J. C Daniel (Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai) who have encouraged me and kindly permitted to stay and refer the BNHS library, Mumbai. Dr. Gadagar, Director, Centre for ecological sciences, IISc, Bangalore, permitted to use the IISc library. Dr. P Pramod, Subramaniam, and Sivan of IISc, Bangalore inspired and encouraged me during the research. I am grateful to them.

I thank Mr. K. V. Eldhose, Kavumgumpillil, for his sincere help in the preliminary field surveys of the research work.

My sincere thanks are also due to my friends Gibi Kuriakose, Jijo Mathew, George Vattappilly, Jaison Mathew, Joshy. M. M, Sunil Jose and Basil Eldou, for their moral support and wholehearted help in field.

I would like to express gratitude to my parents, brother, and particularly my wife.

Lastly, I am grateful to the Mahatma Gandhi University for granting me the Junior research fellowship to support the present study.