ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the very beginning I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to Dr.(Mrs.) Aparajita Borkotoki M.Sc., Ph.D., Reader, Department of Zoology, Gauhati University and thank her for constant encouragement and able guidance. I also thank her for constructive suggestions and continuous supervision and advice without which the completion of the thesis was not possible.

I am really grateful to the Head of the Zoology Department, Gauhati University whose kind permission enabled me to carry out the research work in the cell biology laboratory of the Department.

I express my heartiest gratitude to Dr. T. Baruah, MBBS, MD(Patho) who allowed me to carry out bio-chemical analysis in his Central Laboratory and Research Centre, Silpukhuri, Guwahati and also for his guidance in histopathological studies.

I am very much indebted to Dr.K. Goswami, M.Sc., Ph.D., Director, Assam Forensic Science Laboratory for providing me necessary technical assistance. I am very much thankful to Mr. S.Goswami, Department of Photography, Assam Forensic Laboratory who also devoted his precious time in taking micro-photographs related to my research works.
I am also thankful to the Principal Arya Vidyapeeth College and also the Head of the Zoology Department of Arya Vidyapeeth College, Guwahati -781 016 for allowing me to carry out the research work.

I must express my thanks to Mr.R.Rajbongshi, Lecturer, Department of Statistics, Arya Vidyapeeth College, Guwahati who helped me to complete the statistical analysis of the present investigation.

My heartiest thanks also goes to Mr. Manas Sharma and Mr. Dhrubajyoti Tamuli, Final year students of Gauhati Medical College and also to Lakshmi Sharma, student of Cotton College for assisting me in various ways in the work.

Finally I express my thanks to the staff of M/S. Macons People, Opp. Commerce College, R.G.Baruah Road, Guwahati for their arduous task of compiling and printing the thesis neatly.

October 6th 1994
Guwahati - 781 016

JAMUNA SHARMA
LECTURER
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
ARYA VIDYAPEETH COLLEGE
GUWAHATI.