ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. (Mrs.) M. Das, M.Sc., Ph.D., Reader and Head of the Department of Zoology, University of Gauhati for suggesting the problem of the present thesis and her unstinted supervision and valuable guidance during the entire period of investigation.

I am grateful to Dr. T.C. Deka, M.Sc., Ph.D., F.N.A. Sc.; Dr. S.C. Dey, M.Sc., D.Sc., and to Dr. P.C. Bhattacharjee, M.Sc., Ph.D. for their valuable suggestions.

I am grateful to Dr. S. Nag, M.Sc., Ph.D., Reader, Department of Statistics for his help in analyzing the experimental results statistically.

Thanks are due to my friends who helped me in the preparation of the thesis and to Shri B. Barman for typing the thesis.

Finally, I shall remain ever-grateful to the U.G.C. for the financial help by awarding me a fellowship.

Place - Gauhati University

Date 30.3.61