ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I avail myself of this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude and indebtedness to Dr. (Mrs.) Sabitry Choudhury Bordoloi, Associate Professor, Institute of Advanced study in Science and technology, Guwahati and Professor Amalesh Dutta, Head, Department of Zoology, Gauhati University, Whose kind and able guidance paved the way towards completion of this work.

I acknowledge with gratitude, former Principal, Rev. Father Stephen Mavely, SDB, present Principal, Rev. Father Ionis War Pakma, SDB and Vice-Principal, Rev. Father Joseph Nellanatt, SDB, St. Anthony’s College, Shillong for granting me necessary permission to pursue the work and for their constant encouragement.

I wish to thank my Departmental colleagues, Dr. D. Ghosh, Mrs. S. M. Kharbuli and Mr. D. Sarma for their co-operation and encouragement. Here, I would like to mention the help of Aswini Das, Laboratory assistant during field work. .

I sincerely acknowledge the help rendered with SEM and TEM by Dr. S. Dey, and Mrs. B. Dkhar, of RSIC, Shillong. I also take this opportunity to thank Mr. Juston Nonkynrih for helping me with histological sample preparation. My thanks also go to Mr. R. Chakraborty of RSIC.

I acknowledge the co-operation of Dr. A. Chakraborty and Mr. Mahesh Baruah of the Department of Statistics, St. Anthony’s College for valuable suggestions with statistical analysis.
My thanks go to Dr. S. Sarma, Reader, Department of Geography, NEHU, for help with maps. I also thank Dr. C. S. Rao for everything he has done.

I would like to thank Dr. R. B. Bhar, Mr. P. Das Gupta and Mrs. S. Chakraborty, USIC, Jadavpur University, West Bengal for help with Scanning electron microscopy.

I duly acknowledge the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, New Delhi, for granting a project under which the hatchery complex in the college was constructed.

I also acknowledge the Meteorological Department, Shillong for providing me with some relevant data.

My appreciation goes to Mr. M. K. Bora, Mrs. S. L. Bora and Mrs. Dipali Sarma of Guwahati as well as Mr. D. Sarma and Mrs. K. Devi of Pathala.

I would like to express my gratitude to my Brothers and Sisters and all the members of my family for their moral support and encouragement during my span of work.

My warmest feelings and thanks go to my wife Indrani and sons, Dheeman and Ritwick, but for whose inspiration, this work could not have been completed.

Date: 29/10/03

(Rabindra Nath Bhuyan)
Department of Pisciculture
St. Anthony's College
Shillong, Meghalaya