ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the very outset, I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. D. K Sharma, Professor & Head, Department of Zoology, Gauhati University, for his invaluable guidance, supervision throughout the course of the study and in the preparation of this thesis by carefully examining the entire results and analysis of the investigation.

I am also very grateful to the authorities of the University, the Dean of Faculty of Science and the former Heads of the Department of Zoology for providing me all the administrative helps and allowing me to avail all the facilities required for my research works.

My sincere thank goes to the Director, Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati for permitting me to take up and study and providing me the necessary samples required for the trace element investigation. I would also like to thank all the doctors & staff members of the Institute who helped me directly or indirectly in my research works.

I express my gratefulness to the Inter University Consortium (IUC), Kolkata Center, for facilitating me to do the analysis, with a special mention of Dr. M. Sudarshan & Dr. A. Chakravarty who rendered me the required helps.

I would like to offer my thanks to the authority of the Institute of Physics (IOP), Bhubneswar, for proving me the necessary facility to do the PIXE experiments.

My sincere gratitude is also due to Dr. Sudeep Dey, SAIF, Shillong for his helps and advices required for my research works. I would also like to thank the authority SAIF, Shillong for allowing me to do the AAS experiments.

I express my gratitude to Dr. J. Mahanta, Director, Regional Medical Research Center (RMRC), ICMR, Lahowal, Dibrugarh, for facilitating me to carryout epidemiological investigation, data analysis and library use.

I would offer my sincere thanks to Mrs. Sudha Bhabe, IAS, the then Joint Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India, Mumbai for helping me in accessing BARC library facility.

I would also like to thanks to the authority of National Medical Library (NML), New Delhi; INSDOC, New Delhi; Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute(CNCI), Kolkata; Bose Institute, Kolkata; Bhaba Atomic Research Center(BARC), Mumbai; Center for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Kolkata ; Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics(SINP), Kolkata; Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai; Institute of Science(IISc), Bangalore; Jadavpur University, Kolkata; and North Eastern Hill University(NEHU), Shillong for allowing me to consult their libraries.

I am grateful to all my teachers, colleagues, research scholars and student friends at the University who helped me directly or indirectly in pursuing my research works.

Finally, for my coming to this stage is mainly because of the constant encouragements given by my expired parents, sisters & families, friends & well wishers and all other near & dear ones, my sincere gratitude to them.

Guwahati
August 2006

Sujit Pol Bairagi