ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writer expresses his sincere gratitude to Dr. J.M. Choudhury for his guidance, helpful discussions throughout the course of this work, and critical reading of the manuscript. Thanks are due to my colleagues, Dr. C.C. Bhattacharjee and Dr. M.N. Rao for their many acts of help and cooperation. Thanks are also due to Mr. S.A. Ahmed and Mr. A. Singh for their assistance in the photographic work. The field work was partly financed by the University Grants Commission, Govt. of India.