ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I thank Almighty Allah for His mercy and benevolence.

It gives immense pleasure to acknowledge my deep sense of gratitude to my ideal supervisor Dr. M.Z. Chishti, Professor and Head, Post Graduate Department of Zoology, University of Kashmir, under whose scholarly sympathetic guidance enthusiastic support, constructive criticism and constant encouragement the entire work was carried out.

I express gratitude from the core of my heart to my co-supervisor Dr. A.G. Aliangar, Professor and Head, Department of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery (CVTS), Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Soura, for his encouraging, meritorious guidance and supervision at every step of the present study.

I am highly thankful to Prof. A.R. Khan, Prof. R.C. Bhagat, Prof. G.M. Shah, Professor Ashok Channa and all other faculty members of the department for their valuable suggestions. My special thanks are due to my dearest teacher Dr. Fayaz Senior lecturer, Department of Zoology for his competent advise, enthusiastic support and constant helpfulness during the studies.

I am also thankful to non-teaching staff of the department especially Mr. Sajid, Mr. Niyaz, Mr. Rafiq, Mr. Gh. Nabi and Mr. Zahoor for their help.

I express my grateful thanks to Dr. Ghulam Mustafa, Director University Scientific and Instrumentation Centre (USIC) for his whole hearted cooperation while making the SEM study of samples.

My thanks are also due to the faculty members of Parasitology section SKAUST and Department of Sheep and Animal Husbandry (J&K) who provided me the necessary informations. I am very much thankful to the faculty members Department of CVTS, and Department of Medical Record Centre, SKJIMS, Soura who provided me adequate facilities and necessary data.
My warmest and special thanks are due to my friends especially Dr. Nisar Ahmad Wani, Syed Mahboobul Hassan Shah, Dr. Mehraj-ud-Din, Dr. Iqbal Hussain Qadri, Dr. Feroz Ahmad Shah, Dr. Khurshid, Mr. Riyaz and the boarders of GKRS hostel especially Mr. Rifat Hussain Raina, Mr. Anzar, Dr. M. Amin, Mr. Shaheen Andrabi, Mr. Riyaz Khan for the company they provided me during the present study.

I owe my gratitude to my family members especially my father and sisters for their patience as they faced a lot of problems due to my absence at home. The inspirations of my brothers Prof. A.H. Tak, Mr. Ab. Rouf, Dr. Salahud Din, Dr. Zahoor Ahmad, Mr. Showkat Ahmad, Dr. Aijaz Mohammad are highly acknowledged who helped me to withstand in odd days.

It was very difficult for me to complete the present study as I lost my mother on 8th August 2003, but the inspirations of Mrs. Irshada Nazki insisted me to complete this work. It is very difficult for me to forget her blessings.

Special thanks are also due Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, for providing me the Senior Research Fellowship.

Dated: 23rd December, 2003

Hidayatullah Tak