It is indeed a great honour and pleasure for me to express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to my guide Dr. (Mrs.) Sahera Nasreen, M.Sc; PhD. Head, Department of Botany, Govt. Institute of Science, Aurangabad for her soft and sober attitude, inspiring guidance, whole hearted encouragement, facile suggestions and constructive criticism with a calm exposure led this uphill task to its successful completion and shall remain a lifelong gifted memory for me.

I find a great pleasure to show cordial and heartfelt respect to Dr. Nazir Ahmad Munshi, Senior Scientist, SKUAST-Kashmir for his keen scholastic supervision, valuable constructive suggestions, kind cooperation and inspiration in planning and execution of the research work as well as in successful completion and careful review of the manuscript.

My sincere thanks to Dr. Hemlata Wankhede, Director, Govt. Institute of Science, Aurangabad for her constant encouragement and support.

I would like to thank Teaching and Non-Teaching staff of Dept. of Botany, Govt. Institute of Science, Aurangabad and Department of Environmental Science, SKUAST-K for assisting me in many different ways.

My special thanks from core of my heart to Dr. Parvez, Dr. Tariq, Dr. Shaheen Kauser, Dr. Pachkore, Dr. Wasima and Dr. Javid for their learned advice, valuable guidance and help during the course of investigation.

Sincere and Special thanks are due to my colleagues, Ashfaq Sir, Zaffer, Farah, Shaista, Vishal, Nilesh and yahya pathan for their kind cooperation and constant encouragement.

I would like to thank my father in-law Mr. Mohmad Shafi Wani and my Mother in-law Mrs. Ateeqa Begum for their valuable suggestions, support, kind and caring attitude towards me. My special thanks to my Husband, Asif Shafi.
Wani, who was always there to help me and support me and my Daughters, Usma Batool and Ufra Batool who feel lot of inconvenience during the course of my study and investigations.

I wish to thank my entire family for providing a loving environment for me especially my Grand parents and Maternal uncle Mr. Sheikh Ghulam Rasool for his valuable constructive suggestions, inspiration and support. I would like to thank my other family members Mr. Habib-ullah Wani and late Mohd. Shafi Wani, Dr. Javid, Dr. Asif Sultan, Dr. Masaret, Dr. Samina, Junaid, Hurmat, Hareem, Anisa, Nuzhat, Mariya and Shabnum for their constant encouragement and kind cooperation.

My special thanks from core of my heart to my sisters Tabasum Farooq and Humaira Farooq who endure me, supported me and loved me. They have always been there for me as an unwavering support.

Lastly and most importantly, my heartfelt devotion is due for my loving parents, Mr. Farooq Ahmad Wani and Mrs. Naseema Begum who always prayed for my success. In fact it is my parents inspiration, advice, whole hearted support and above all their encouragement which acted as a premium to my achievement.

Muneera Farooq

Place: Aurangabad

Date: 08-07-2014