ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This thesis has been prepared under the guidance and supervision of my respected teacher Dr. Uday H. Mane (rtd.)Professor, Department of Zoology, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad and Director of Center for Coastal and Marine Biodiversity, Ratnagiri. He has been mentor and guide throughout the process of planning and the execution of this research. He gave me the insight into the subject. His advice, guidance, friendly care and persistent encouragement were the source of inspiration for me, for which I could find no appropriate words to express my gratitude towards him.

Many respected people have helped me in many ways to complete this thesis work. I am grateful to all of them. I must sincerely express my thanks to Dr. S.P. Zambre, Head Dept. of Zoology, Dr. A. N. Vedpathak, Dr. Y.K. Khillarae, Dr. C.B. Dumllod, Dr. D.L. Sonavane, Dr. K.B. Shejule, Dr. Meena Patil, Dr. B.V. Waykar, Dr. (mrs) S.R. Sonavane, Dr. (mrs) S.R. Nikam Department of Zoology, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad.
I am thankful my senior research colleagues to Dr. G.D.Suryawanshi, Dr. A. R. Kurhe, Dr. S. B. Dongrae, Dr.(mrs)Shaik, Dr.Rahul Pandit for their constant encouragement. Also my research colleagues Mr. S. R. Khade, Mr. S. R. Gawai, Mr. R.S. Tingote, Mr. B. G. Bhaware for their help.

I am thankful to my friends Dr. D. M. Gaikwad, Dr. N.G. Shinde, Dr.TanveerPathan, Dr.VasantDongrae, Dr.J.T.Jagtap, Dr.P.Kharat, Dr.R.Kale, Dr.Shivaji Ubhandane Dr.Ajit Gedam, Mr.Sunil Anand, Mr.Ravindra D. Admane who have helped me directly or indirectly at various stages to completed this work.

I must mention my father Shri. Fakirchand Dhondiram Gaikwad and my mother Sou. Chandrakal Fakirchand Gaikwad whose blessings inspired me to complete this work successfully. I would also extend my thanks to my brother Mr.Nandakumar Fakirchand Gaikwad and my sister ku.Jyoti Fakirchand Gaikwad deep sincere gratitude to for their moral support at all hard times.

I shall never forget my children, Kirtiratna and Aparna during complete research work.
I am thankful to animal supplier Mr. Salim Shaik for fresh collection of animals from lotic and lentic water habitat near Aurangabad during the course of my study period.

I must acknowledge deep appreciation to Mr. B.S. Dhokane Photo artist for the excellent work of photography for my Ph.D. Thesis with great patience and skill in time.

Above all I would like to thank to the Almighty for the blessings and conferring a good physical and mental health.

...Anand Pakirchand Gaikwad