ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I consider myself very much lucky to get such expert, enthusiastic and helpful guidance of my honorable research guide Dr. V. S. Kothekar, Professor and Head, Department of Botany, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad. I am unable to express my thanks to him for suggesting me this research topic, valuable guidance, keen interest, constructive criticism, constant encouragement during the entire course of study, for painstaking efforts while finalizing the manuscript of the thesis and the zeal and constant assurance at every moment bestowed on me by him.

I owe my thanks to my teachers Dr. A. M. Chavan, Dr. Bharati Jadhav, Dr. P. B. Papdiwal, Dr. (Mrs.) S. S. Barve, Dr. M. M. Sardesai, Dr. A. S. Dhabe and Dr. N. B. Pandhure, for their valuable co-operation during the present research work.

It also gives me great pleasure to place on record my profound gratefulness to Dr. (Mrs.) A. V. Kothekar for her active help and continuous motivation throughout the present work.

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to my friends Mr. Ranjit Bansode, Shankar Sanap, Santosh Suradkar, Sopan Kharat, Sidharth Dabade, Nitin Gaikwad, Sanjay Gange, Dr. Anil Bhalerao, Dr. Mukund kulthe, Dr. Vishal Sarwade, Dr. Ravi Madhekar, Dr. Mahesh Kulthe, Dr. Shaikh Shafik, Dr. Sunita Bhosale, Dr. Satish Tambe, Mr. Shrimant Surwase, Rajendra Kakde, Dhondiram Gadgile, Haribhau Waghire, Keshao Shinde, Bhimrao Jaiwal, Swapnil Mahamune, Pawan Shingare, Vishwnath Waghmare, Mustafa Dandu, Shantanu Chavan, Naval Todawat, Prakash Jadhavar, Miss. Maya, Swati, Sheetal, Anjali, Pranita, Komal, Sonali, Kavita Guisamudre, Jennet Francis, Kalpana Bochre, Sandhya Jaybhay, Dipali Bagul, Rupali Tuar, Aakanksha Kedar, Priyanka Ingale and Asha Chate for their help. I wish to convey my heartfelt thanks to all my friends for their excellent co-operation.

I am also grateful to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University for awarding Golden Jubilee Junior Research Fellowship and giving me financial support.

I am thankful to Dr. B. T. Mundhe, Librarian, Marathwada, Agricultural University, Parbhani. (M.S.) for providing me necessary facilities and Scientist In charge, Agricultural Research Station, Badnapur, Dist. Jalna (M. S.) for
providing me the seed material of different varieties of pigeonpea for my research work.

I am very much thankful to Mr. B. S. Dhokane, Garden staff and non-teaching staff of this department for their continuous help during the research work.

I am deeply grateful to Mr. Vikas Ghadamode, Ravi Mule, Nafees Pathan, Santosh Avhale, Rahul Pawar, Vijay, Vikas, Miss. Vandana, Suwarna, my aunty Sou. Heera Ghuge and Swadhyaya Parivar for their valuable cooperation and constant support throughout the present investigation.

I am very much thankful to my dearest brother Mr. Anil Sangle, uncle Mr. Ashok Ghuge and brother-in-law Mr. Prabhakar Ghuge for their kind help in various ways.

I wish to record my deep feelings of gratitude towards my parents and close relatives for providing me all their blessings and moral support. I would like to extend special feelings towards my niece Hrucha and Kartiki for her inspiring smile all through my preoccupation and patience during the completion of research work.

Last but not the least I express my special thanks to all those who have directly or indirectly helped me during my research activity.

Sunil M. Sangle.