Acknowledgement

I would like to express at the very outset my sincere gratitude to my guide, 
**Dr. Radhakrishna S. Pandit**, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, 
University of Pune, under whose able guidance, encouragement and 
personal affection, I have been able to complete my research work.

My thanks are to Dr. B. B. Nath, HOD, Department of Zoology, University of Pune, 
Dr. Deepti Deobagkar, Dr. Ghaskadbi, Dr. Pai, Dr. Bhargava, Dr. Gramapurohit for their continuous encouragement during my research period.

I take this opportunity to express my deepest sense of gratitude and sincere 
thanks to Dr. Sen and Dr. A. P. Giri, NCL, Pune, for their precious 
guidance; valuable inputs and expertise which helped me immensely in 
completing the research.

I am extremely thankful to Dr. Vishal Dawkhar, Ms. Jyoti Chintalchere, 
Sachin Lakare, Samadhan Phuge, Sarang Patole, Sachin Chavan and Kishor 
Raut for their cooperation and, selfless support, pleasant company, help and 
friendship.

I am very grateful to my Lab mates, research students and all the non 
teaching staff for their timely and valuable help in completing my research 
work.

Last but not the least my deepest thanks to my father in law Dr. K. R. Sanap for his motivation and continuous support and of course no words are enough to express my special thanks to my husband and all my family members who shown faith and patience in me throughout my research and helped in all possible way.

Yogita Shivji Jaybhay