First and foremost I want to thank my Research Guide, Dr. Ashok M. Chavan, Professor, Department of Botany and Controller of Examinations, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad. I am most fortunate student to get teacher like him as my research guide. He gave me constant encouragement and valuable suggestions and tireless guidance throughout the research period with parental care and affection, without which the work would not have been completed.

I am grateful to respected Prof. V. S. Kothekar, Head, Department of Botany, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad and Prof. D.S. Mukadam, Former-Head, Department of Botany, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad. Prof. D.S.Pokle, Former-Head, Department of Botany, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad for providing necessary facilities and valuable guidance.

My sincere thanks to Shri. Nanasaheb Palodkar (Chairman, Rajashri Shahu Shikshan Sanstha, Sillod) and Dr. A. A. Pandit (Principal), Dr. B. R. Sonawane (Vice-Principal), Mr. A.K. Palodkar (O.S.) and all teaching and non-teaching staff of Yashwantrao Chavan College, Sillod.

I am also thankful to my teachers Dr. Milind Sardesai, Dr. Narayan Pandhure, Dr. P. B. Papdiwal and Dr. Arvind Dhabe of Department of Botany Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, Dr. B.L. Jadhav, Dr. Milind Jadhav, Mr. Sawdekar J.H., Mrs. Jawle S.V., Mrs. Thakur M.L. and Mrs. Borde S.N. for their moral support.

It is my duty to express thanks to my research colleagues Dr. V.V. Sonawane, Dr. V. M. Dharurkar, Dr. Sulochana Rathod, Dr. A. U. Kulkarni, Dr. Gulab Rathod, Dr. Suhas Kamble, Dr. Umesh Kesare, Dr. Prashant Pangrikar, Dr. Shashikant Bandewar, Dr. Rajesh Gaikwad, Mr. Dhondiram Gadgile, Mr. Rajendra Kakde, Dr. Amit Hatti, Mr. Shikant Mane, Dr. Gokul
Shelke, Dr. Bhaskar Thakare, Dr. S.M. Pawar, Dr. B. T. Pawar, Mr. Sachin Chavan and Mr. Shantanu Chavan.

I am very much thankful to Dr. Mrs. Vibhawari Chavan and Ms. Avani, who always gave me a warm welcome and no formalities creating a homely atmosphere.

I am very much thankful to my friends Adv. Gajanan Dhawle, Dr. K. S. Shinde, Mr. Balasaheb Nimbhore, Mr. Manoj and Mrs. Chitra Dodewar, Mrs. Shital Raibole, Mrs. Amrapali Dabadge, Mr. Satish Magar, Mr. K. M. Pawar, Dr. P.S. Patil, Prof. A.B. Jadhav, Prof. V. B. Sanap, Dr. Atul Ingle, Dr. Anil Mali (Bejo Sheetal Seed, Jalna), Dr. B.N. Gadekar, Dr. G.T. Kharat, Mr. R. T. Gawande and Mr. Vinay Mohod.

I am equally grateful and record my thanks to Shaikh Zubair Ahmed for type setting of thesis in time and Mr. B.S. Dhokhne for nice photography.

Words are not enough for expressing my heartiest gratitude towards the pillars of my educational carrier respectful father Shri Vitthalrao Badar, Mother Sou Rukhminibai Badar, Grandmother Kondabai, Sister Sou Mangal Ram Dekhane and Sou Jyoti Jagannath Jadhav, Sou Pranali Daud and Atmaram Daud Brother Vilas, his wife Saw. Pooja, Father-in-law Shri. Shamrao Daud, Mother-in-law Sou. Miratai Daud, my wife Aarti and My beloved son Soham and all my family members for their moral support and encouragement during the course of present investigation.

Kakasaheb V. Badar