ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I express my sincere and deep sense of gratitude to my respected teacher and affectionate research supervisor Prof. Dr. Md. Bashamohiddeen, M.Sc., Ph.D., F.A.Z., F.N.E.S.A., M.G.Z.S. (West Germany), Professor and Head of the Department of Zoology, present senate member of Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur and Best Scientist awardee by the National Environmental Science Academy for suggesting me this problem, for his invaluable guidance, keen interest and constant encouragement throughout the course of this investigation. He instilled great confidence, sense of direction and achievement in me. It was a privilege to be a research student under his able guidance. My sincere thanks are also due to him being the erstwhile Head of the Department of Biosciences for providing me necessary facilities to carry out this investigation.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to my sisters and brother-in-laws, for their constant encouragement and affectionate treatment during the course of this investigation.

I express my heartfelt thanks to all the staff members, research colleagues and my friends for the help extended to me in someway or other during the course of this investigation.

S. RAMANA DEVI