ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is a great pleasure to acknowledge my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. R.P. Surendra Kumar, Professor, Department of Zoology, under whose guidance, the present work has been completed. I shall be ever grateful to him for his valuable directions and useful suggestions and also for showing his personal interest in the work. Really, he has been a source of great encouragement to me. His patient and thorough discussions of intricate problems, even during his busy schedule, have helped me much.

I am no less grateful to Dr. K. Radhakrishnaiah, Head, Department of Zoology, for kindly providing facilities in the conduct of my research work.

I owe precious lot to Prof. C.G. Prakash Rao, Prof. T. Pullaiah, Department of Botany, Dr. Venkata Raju, Chief Scientist, Munaswamy, Soil Physicist, A.P. Agricultural Research Station, Anantapur, Dr. Rama Murthy, Professor, Department of Zoology, S.V. University, for their sympathetic attitude and co-operating behaviour for the progress of my research work.

I am particularly indebted to my research colleagues, G. Rajaram, Dr. Mahendra Varma, Dr. A. Suresh, M. David for their help and suggestions.
I would like to express my sincere thanks to my friends, Miss. P. Sharada Devi, Miss. D.R. Madhavi, Miss. K. Sri Lakshmi and Miss. B. Uma Devi for their constant encouragement.

Acknowledgements are gratefully extended to many individuals kindness in providing inspiration. I thank UGC for financial help.

To my dear parents, Sri B. Subba Reddy and Smt. B. Nirmala Devi and sister, B. Kavitha, whose constant interest in my progress has made me what I am today, I owe a debt of love. This work is as much theirs as mine.

I must also place on record my sincere thanks to Mr. Pratap Reddy, Maegabyte Computer Academy, who helped me compute the data, Mr. Shastry and Syed for computerizing the graphs and tables and Mr. N. Hemakshi Achari and Mr. V. Sahadevan for typing the manuscript.

B. MYTHILI