ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is with utmost pleasure and sincere gratitude that I acknowledge my indebtedness to my respected teacher and supervisor, Dr. S.P. Vij, Professor, Department of Botany, Panjab University, Chandigarh. His meticulous guidance has greatly enhanced my expository merits this work may have. Without his constructive criticism and constant encouragement throughout the course of the research work, it would have never been accomplished. It has been my extreme privilege and most rewarding experience to be associated with a person of his calibre and deeds.

Sincerest thanks are due to my worthy laboratory colleagues who have been very kind during the tenure of this work and helped me in penning down the work in this form.

The words at my command are inadequate to express my deep sense of indebtedness to Mrs. Usha Vij for her affections and encouragement during the course of research work.

I also avail the opportunity to express gratefulness to my parents and parents in law, for their inspiration and encouragement, without which I would not have been able to complete this herculean task. I am also grateful to my brother and sister. I am especially indebted to my husband, Dr. Rajesh Malhotra, who has always stood by me and lent his tireless efforts, constant encouragement and moral support in completing the task. I shall be doing injustice if I do not thank my little daughter 'Shipra' for her great patience.
And last, though not least, I express my thanks to Dr. S.S.K. Sharma, Professor and Ex-Chairman, and Dr. C.L. Mendhar, Professor and Chairman, Department of Botany, Panjab University, Chandigarh, for providing necessary laboratory facilities.

Financial assistance from Government of India, Department of Environment and Forests, is gratefully acknowledged.

Dated: January 17th, 1992

KIRAN BALA SALWAN