ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I express my gratitude to my guide and supervisor, Prof. S. Khera, for allowing me to work on the present problem, guidance and critical examination of the manuscript.

I am grateful to, Chairman, Department of Zoology, Panjab University, Chandigarh for providing necessary research facilities.

I am thankful to Dr. M.S. Johal, Reader, Department of Zoology, Panjab University, Chandigarh, whose valuable advice and criticism led to the refinement of statistical analysis of the data.

Sincere thanks are due to Dr. P.J. Garson, Department of Biology, University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, U.K. for preparing the sonographs and sending relevent literature.

I am thankful to Dr. Navdeep Singh and Mr. Navjot Sodhi for their valuable suggestions and sending literature and books. My friends Jaswinder Saini, Surashmi Chandra, Dharamvir, Chander Bhan Arora and Narinder Singh provided companionship and assistance throughout the study period; I am thankful to them.

I am grateful to my brother Rajdeep for
providing encouragement and support.

I am thankful to my wife Meenu for her moral support and assistance throughout the study period.

(Rajiv Singh Kalsi)