Acknowledgements

Many people have contributed in important ways to the production of this thesis and I have been extremely fortunate in this regard in having Dr. M. L. Sareen, Reader, Department of Zoology, Panjab University, Chandigarh, as my guide and a constructive critic, abstractor and enthusiast. His valuable advice and encouragement helped me do dilute my research problems.

I am grateful to Dr. K. K. Tandon, Professor, Chairman, Department of Zoology, Panjab University, Chandigarh for the necessary laboratory facilities and help he provided me for the investigations.

My gratitude to Prof. H. S. Vashist for his interminable help and blessings.

My greatest debt is to my brother, Subroto, who helped me in drawing the diagrams and have not only shared my concerns out also unstintingly of his time to encourage, discuss and criticize my present work.
I record my thanks to Mr. M. L. Sharma, Regional Sophisticated Instrumentation Centre, Panjab University, Chandigarh, who has kindly assisted me in Scanning Electron Microscopy.

I am thankful to Mr. P. C. Sharma and Mr. R. S. Tokhi for their gift of invaluable time.

I extend my appreciation to Dr. S. Pathak, Principal, M.L.S.M. College, Sundernagar (H.P.) for his assistance and co-operation.

Gratefully I acknowledge the financial assistance rendered to me by the University Grants Commission, New Delhi.

I have long looked forward to the day when these acknowledgements could be written.

[Signature]

AMANJIT