ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sincere thanks are due to Dr. R.C. Sobti (Reader, Department of Zoology, Panjab University, Chandigarh) for his competent guidance, immaculate planning and for being a constant source of encouragement.

I owe a debt of gratitude to Professor S.S. Handa (Department of Pharmacetical Sciences, Panjab University, Chandigarh) for his co-operation, understanding, constructive criticism and for bringing this thesis to the present shape.

I am grateful to Professor K.K. Tandon (Chairman, Department of Zoology, Panjab University, Chandigarh) for generously extending facilities for the research work and for constantly boosting my morale.

Thanks are also due to Professor T.R. Juneja (Chairman, Department of Pharmacetical Sciences, Panjab University, Chandigarh) for allowing me to make use of department facilities for pursuing my research work.

I also owe a word of gratitude to Professor U.Kanwar (Department of Zoology, Panjab University, Chandigarh) and Dr. S.N. Sanyal (Department of Biophysics, Panjab University, Chandigarh) for always being ready to lend a helping hand.

A very special "thank you" to Dr. R.K.Sharma for his untiring help, without which this thesis would not have been possible.
I gratefully acknowledge the help extended by Maj. V.S. Chaudhary, Ms. Manjot Macker and Mr. K.L. Sharma in helping to prepare this manuscript.

My family, I thank, for standing by me through thick and thin, and for always being there when I needed them.

The financial assistance given by the Indian Council of Medical Research is gratefully acknowledged.

Jasminder Sahi
(JASMINDE SAHI)