ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my deep and sincere gratitude to my Research Supervisor, Prof G.Sudarsanam, Ph.D. Department of Botany, S.V.University, Tirupati. His wide knowledge and his logical way of thinking have been of great value for me. His understanding encouragement and personal guidance have provided a good basis for the present thesis. I appreciate all his contribution of time and ideas to make my research experience productive and stimulating. In fact, every minute of my life, I remember him for his inspiring guidance, encouragement, erudite discussions and ever eager helpful nature and express my indebtedness to him for taking great pains and efforts in the completion and presentation of the thesis. This thesis would not have been possible without his support.

I owe my most sincere gratitude to Madam Mrs. Azra Javed, Secretary and Correspondent, Osmania group of Institutions, Kurnool, for her kind encouragement. Without her inspiration, this work would not have been completed. I am beholden by her cheerfulness, untiring care and dedicated commitment to service I record my profound gratitude to her.

I don’t forget to convey my regards to Dr. S.M. Gzni, Principal, Osmania College, Kurnool for his moral support to complete this task successfully.

There are no words to express my immense love and gratitude to my wife Mrs. D. Niaz Parveen, Lecturer in Botany, Osmania College for women, Kurnool for her support and encouragement. She has been a perennial fount of my inspiration. Her invaluable help during the final stages of this Ph.D work is highly commendable I remain grateful to her.

I am fascinated by my little hearts, sweet companions of my life, my son Md. Ateeb and my daughter Afrah for their patience, cooperation and support in the completion of my research work. I express my thanks to my department and college colleagues, co-research scholars, friends for their help at times of need. I acknowledge the help of several individuals who in one way or another contributed and extended their valuable assistance in the preparation and completion of this study. I am thankful to the Divisional Forest Officer, Kurnool for his help in exploration work. Thank you.

(Khaleel Basha)