I express my sincere thanks to Dr. Shripad N. Agashe, Professor Emeritus for introducing me to this interesting subject. His encouragement, invaluable guidance and suggestions throughout the period of my research study helped me to complete my work for which I am deeply indebted to him.

I thank Prof. M.C.Gayatri, The Chairperson, Department of Botany, Bangalore University for providing laboratory facilities, constant encouragement and help.

My grateful thanks are extended to my teachers Prof. C. Kameswara Rao, Prof. B.H.M. Nijalingappa, Prof. D. Sivaramakrishna, Prof. R.M. Ranganath, Prof. D.H. Tejavathi, Dr. S.R. Ambika, Dr. Indiramma Basavaraj, Prof. Anasuya, Dr. C. Mamatha Rao, Dr. C. Maya and Dr. K.P. Srinath for their encouragement.

It gives me a great pleasure to thank Prof. S.B. Sullia for his immense help in spore identification.

I also would like to express my deep sense of gratitude and sincere thanks to Mr. Saleem Hameed, Mr. N.R. Swamy and Mr. Atanu Mondal for their timely help in photography.

My sincere grateful thanks are extended to Mr. Ullas P.A. for his immense help, invaluable suggestions and help in art without whose assistance this
work would not have come out in its present form. I am thankful to his family for their support and for giving me hospitality.

I wish to thank Dr. M.B. Krishna for his valuable suggestions and encouragement. I would also like to thank his family for giving me a taste of the Indian hospitality.

I owe my deepest gratitude to my wonderful parents, my brothers Rustam and Alisher, sister Nodira and sister-in-law Shoista for their unending love, care, support and encouragement and in being there for me.

My heartfelt thanks to the Indian Embassy in Tajikistan and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations for giving me an opportunity to do my Ph.D. in Bangalore. I express my sincere gratitude to Mr. J.W. Lobo, Mrs. Deepali Pal and the staff of ICCR in Bangalore for their help and for being a constant source of encouragement.

My special thanks go to my colleagues and friends Dr. Vidya M.P., Dr. B.E. Rangaswamy, Ms. Caroline M., Ms. Senthil V., Ms. Poornima and Mrs. Roopa for their encouragement. I am indebted to the office staff of my department and Mr. Krishnaiah for their help and support.

My heartfelt appreciation for the encouragement and the moral support provided by Dr. (Mrs.) Nirmala Agashe and Ms. Sandhya Agashe during my period of research work.
I remain thankful to the officials of the Meteorological Centre for permitting me to install the Rotorod Sampler (Model-40) and for providing necessary meteorological data.

I am thankful to Dr. Raman A.K and Dr. Anupamma from the Manipal Hospital for providing me with necessary material for me carry on my research work.

My heartfelt thanks go to the countless faces that made my years of stay in India joyful and memorable.

_Mamlakatoi_