ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am greatly indebted to Dr. G. VENKATAChAAlAIAH, Reader, Centre for Applied Genetics, Department of Zoology, Bangalore University, Bangalore for suggesting a research problem and sustained encouragement given throughout the period.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. M.R. Delvi, Professor and Chairman, Department of Zoology, Bangalore University, for his encouragement and the facilities provided during the course of this study.

I am thankful to Dr. N. Jaya Shetty, Professor and Director, Dr. JayapraKash, Reader, Centre for Applied Genetics, Department of Zoology, Bangalore University, for their keen interest and valuable suggestions and support given during the entire course of the study.

My sincere gratitude to Dr. P. Michailova, Institute of Zoology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria for her valuable help.

My sincere gratitude to Dr. Vijay Kumar, Reader, Department of Zoology, Gulbarga University, Dr. B.B. Nath, Department of Zoology, Pune University, and Office Staff of ZSI, Chennai for their timely help.

My thanks are also due to Badarinath J.C., Raju N.G., Pandiyam M.C., Mohan Kumar T., Venu G., Thippeswamy R., Dinesh A.M., Ravikiran T., Sreenivas A., Nagaraj N., Sudhakar R., Reddy M., Nagaraj H.M., Indramma, Lingaraju, and all other friends for their timely help in the successful completion of this study.

Further, I am thankful to Mr. A. Ramu, Photographer of the Department for the photographic work.

Finally, I express my heartfelt gratitude to my parents, brothers and all my family members for their encouragement and support.

PRASANNA KUMAR R.