ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The epithet 'Doctor of Philosophy' do not come naturally as dew drops from heaven. It is not like something easy got and easy caught. Many heads and hands have been working behind for its fruition, without their collaboration I would not have completed the odyssey and reached the promised land of success. Really I feel immensely jubilant and elated.

It feels me with joy to acknowledge my guide Dr. Jayashree Rout, Department of Ecology and Environmental Science, Assam University, Silchar and my Co-guide Dr. D.K. Upreti, Head, Lichenology Laboratory, National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow who have extended their helping hands and golden guidelines and suggestions, in addition to being the fountain of inspiration and encouragement to learn various aspects and ultimate fructification of preparation of thesis under their constant supervision and investigations. I also bear the stamp of indebtedness to them for activating and galvanizing me under their banner of inspiration and for their moral support during the critical hours.

I extend my heartiest gratitude to Dr. Rakesh Tuli, Director, National Botanical Research Institute, for creating a congenial and conductive environment and providing laboratory facilities for the work.


I am grateful to Dr. D.D. Awasthi, Father of Indian Lichenology for his invaluable and analytical suggestions in the lichenological studies.
I am overwhelmed into a sense and deep gratitude to Dr. Sanjeeva Nayaka, Scientist, National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow for encouraging me evincing interest in research work and its progress, lives and fruitful discussion.

I am also grateful to my beloved and esteemed seniors Drs. P.K. Divakar, Shantanu Chatterjee, Shivani Chaturvedi, Anil Kumar Gauniyal and Rahul Srivastava for their help, support and advice to complete my research work.

I also offer my heart warming thanks from the deepest core of my heart to Drs. Yogesh Joshi, Rajesh Bajpai, Mukhtar A. Sheikh, Ahuti Bajpai and Mr. Himanshu Rai for ungrudging support, help, encouragement and constructive ideas, without which I will not have completed the research work.

I also thank my stars to have colleague like Ms. Roshni Khare whose unfailing support from the very beginning has enthuziased me a lot undertake the research work with giant steps. Thanks for giving me time during the cross checking and compilation of the thesis. I am also thankful to Mr. Gaurav Mishra for helping me in photography.

Credit also goes to Dr. Satya, Mr. Santosh Joshi, Shobha Rawat, Aparna Dwivedi Gaurav Mishra, Satish Mahobe, Shagun, Mr. Prakash (National Botanical Research Institute) Dr. Pulak Das, Jibendu da, Albert, Linthoigambi, Habsa, Bichitra, Pallab, Dharitri and Bhaswati (Assam University, Silchar) whose support boosted me up in course of this study. My kudos also go to Mr. Dilip Chakraborty for his help in typing and compiling the thesis.

My heartfelt thanks are due to Mr. Gulab Singh and Mr. Renya Ori (District Forest Officers of Along Forest Division) who give permission for sample collection and Mr. Ribha and Mr. Ete who helped me in forest to collect the samples.

Really it is matter of pleasure and pride to express a deep sense of gratitude to the whole gamut of Ramakrishna Mission School, Arunachal Pradesh who always encouraged me from the childhood days during the course of the study.
I thank God to be blessed with a mother Mrs. Manju Dubey. I am indebted to her beyond measure for her benign love, affection, good will, blessings and concrete suggestions that emboldened enthralled me during my research period. The influence as well as inspiration of my father Mr. S. B. Dubey has sown the seeds of patience and perseverance in me so that I may be chastened and chiseled by scientific temper, I have no words in my command to express the heartfelt thanks and gratitude to him whose unfailing moral support, perennial inspirations and blessings galvanized me immensely.

I also convey my thanks to my younger sisters Purmima and Pratima and brothers Abhay and Vinay who always lent me helping hands during the research work.

I find no adequate words to thank my best friend, the integral part of mine, my husband Mr. T.N. Chaubey who always encouraged me not to harbor defeatist attitude, moral support, valuable suggestions, constant inspirations without which my research work would not have tasted the nectar of success.

It feels me with joy to give vent to my deep sense of gratitude from the bottom of my heart to my in-laws Mr. K.D. Chaubey and Mrs. Vimla Chaubey and sister-in-laws and their husbands for unstinted cooperation and love.

My vocabulary fails when the time come to acknowledge my 9 months son Shashank who always support silently without saying anything without which it was impossible to complete the research work.

Above all, I offer my humble, heartfelt, prayerful and devoted pranams to the Almighty but for whose blessings, grace and mercy I would not have completed my thesis.

Urvashi Dubey