ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I deem it a great privilege to record my deep sense of gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Atarun Kumar Pati, Reader, School of Life Sciences, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, for his benevolence and guidance during the present study.

I express my heartfelt thanks to Prof. K.K. Tiwari, Principal, Government Autonomous Science College, Raipur, for providing laboratory and other facilities for this work. I am grateful to Dr. S.H. Vajre, Professor and Head, Department of Zoology, Government Autonomous Science College, Raipur, for having a concern and rendering help during this endeavor. I am also grateful to the Ex-Heads, Prof. Md. Ashfaque and Prof. S.R. Gupta, for their kind patronage.

The cooperation of my colleagues of Zoology department had been very encouraging. I thank them for their involvement and support. The supporting staff of the Department of Zoology deserves a very special thanks.

I am indebted to Prof. M.L. Naik, Head, School of Life Sciences, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, for his keen interest and help for completion of this work. I am grateful to the faculty members of School of Life Sciences for the encouragement and suggestions during the tenure of this study.

I am thankful to Dr. Jayant Biswas, Dr. Shobha Gupta, Dr. Maya Shedpure, Dr. Elizabeth Varghese, Dr. Arvind Agrawal, Mrs. Arti Parghania, Mrs. Renu Maheshwari, Mrs. Preeti Mishra and other research fellows in School of Life Sciences for their untiring co-operation during my research. I thank to the staff of School of Life Sciences, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, for their help.

The financial assistance in the form of a minor research project from University Grants Commission, New Delhi, is gratefully acknowledged.

The help rendered by Mr. Kamlesh Pandey, Pandeytronics, Raipur, during the course of this study was remarkable and I thank him for this venture.

Last but not the least, I express my gratitude to my family members and relatives, for providing assistance and moral support during the course of this investigation.

Seema Gupta