ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The candidate is greatly indebted to Dr. C.P. Raychaudhuri, D.Sc. (Cal. & Lond.), F.R.I.C., F.N.I., Head of the Division of Chemistry for guidance and kind help throughout the period of investigations.

He is grateful to Dr. B.P. Pal, M.Sc., Ph.D. (Cantab.), F.N.I., F.L.S., F.B.Sc., Director, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, for his kindly giving the permission and providing the necessary facilities for carrying out the investigations.

His thanks are also due to Dr. A. Sen, M.Sc., Ph.D., Assistant Soil Microbiologist, for his helpful criticism and valuable suggestions.

He is also indebted to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for permission to reproduce some of the data obtained by the candidate, while working in the scheme of 'Nitrogen Fixation by Legumes', sponsored by the Council at the Institute.