ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I express my deep sense of gratitude and sincere appreciation to my supervisor Professor Ashesh Kumar Das, Department of Ecology and Environmental Science, Assam University, Silchar, for his valuable suggestions and guidance throughout the period of this study.

I am indebted to my Co-Supervisor Dr. M. L. Khan, Reader, Department of Forestry, North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology (Deemed University), Nirjuli, Arunachal Pradesh, for his constant encouragement and guidance throughout the course of the study. I remain grateful to him for his tireless effort and help rendered to me in successful completion of the research.

I extend my gratitude to Director, NERIST and to Dr. (Mrs.) P. Rethy, Head, Department of Forestry, NERIST and Prof. Biman Kumar Dutta, Head, Department of Ecology and Environmental Science, Assam University, Silchar, for extending all the infrastructural facilities during the course of study.

I also express my sincere gratitude to Dr. S. Dayanandan, Department of Biology, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada; Prof. John Pannell of Oxford University, UK; Charles B. Fenster of University of Maryland, USA; Prof. Amots Dafni of University of Haifa, Israel; Dr. Shaily Menon of Grand Valley State University, USA and Prof. A. Townsend Peterson of University of Kansas, USA for their valuable guidance during the course of study and compilation of data sets in the thesis. Special thanks to CEMDE, University of Delhi and ATREE Bangalore for giving me opportunity to attend two important workshops on 'Biosystematics' and 'Pollination Biology' respectively which helped me a lot in my course of research.

I wish to express my special thanks to Dr. A. Arunachalam, Dr. L. B. Singha, Dr. O. P. Tripathi, Dr. Kh. Ashalata Devi, Dr. P. Gajurel, Dr. A. Kumar and Dr. S. Singh for their kind encouragement, inspiration and support during the course of this study and also to Dr. N.D. Singh for his kind cooperation.

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to Dr. M. Dutta Choudhury, Dr. S. Giri, Dr. S.C. Garkoti and Dr. D.C. Ray for their encouragements in successful completion of my study.


I feel pleasure to acknowledge the assistance received from Mr. Bijjit Basumatry and Mr. Bironjay Basumtary in laboratory and field.
My sincere thank goes to the village headmen (Gaon Bura) and villagers of Dirang (West Kameng) for their interest in my research and towards conservation of *G. assamicus* and sharing their knowledge during this investigation. Especially, I wish to thank Mr. Sang Khandu (Barchi village) and Mr. Jam Tsering (GB, Yewang Village) of Dirang who helped me immensely during the field work. Mr. Chanda of SFRI Orchid Orchard, Dirang helped me in raising seedlings at Dirang. I am very much thankful to him.

I am grateful to Dr. M. Bhattacharya, Director, NRC Yak, Dirang for providing laboratory facilities, Dr. D.K. Hore, Scientist Incharge, NBPGNR, Shillong for academic support, Mr. P.K. Dutta, Co-ordinator, WWF-Nature, India, Dirang Field Office, Arunachal Pradesh for providing field support, Dr. Anwaruddin Choudhury for help in identification bird species. I also thank Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, other Forest Officers and Staff of Forest Department, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar for the grant of permission and logistic support during the period of work. I thankfully acknowledge the instrumentation division, IIT Guwahati for providing SEM facility for pollen and seed samples. Help received from BSI Shillong and Itanagar, ZSI Itanagar and SFRI Itanagar is also appreciated.

Financial support received from the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India (Sanction no. SR/SO/PS-16/2002, project sanctioned to Dr. M. L. Khan) is greatly acknowledged.

I am deeply indebted to my parents, sisters, brothers and relatives and well wishers who encouraged me throughout the course of this research. Special thanks to T. Raja Choudhury, J.H. Choudhury and S. Koli for their constant support throughout the study period. I thank Nirjhar, Hizol, Anwesha and Swapnil for their interest in successful completion of the thesis.

Bahrain Islam Choudhury

(B.I. Choudhury)