It is my privilege to have the able guidance from Dr. R.P. Srivastava, M.A., Ph.D, Professor and Head, Department of Anthropology, University of Poona, Poona an exceptionally very good teacher. I am ever grateful to him for his suggestions, clarifications and constant supervision throughout the work of the thesis. I am fortunate to have come into contact with such a nice, gentle and understanding person.

I am extremely thankful to the Director, Anthropological Survey of India, Calcutta for permitting me to utilise my project data, and also for providing me other facilities in the organisation.

I am indebted to Sri S. Haseen Ahmed, Superintending Anthropologist, Nagpur for his helpful comments and constant encouragement. I am highly obliged to Professor P.K. Misra, Department of Anthropology, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong and formerly the Regional Officer, Anthropological Survey of India, Mysore for his inspiration and help in the execution of the field work. I am also thankful to Dr. B.B. Goswami, Joint Director; and Dr. B.K. Desgupta, Regional Officer, Anthropological Survey of India, Nagpur for encouragement and providing me working facilities.

My thanks are due to Dr. V. Balakrishnan, Cancer Research Institute, Bombay who helped me in the Statistical Computation of Genetic Distance analysis. I would like to thank Sri Lanjsuar, Sri Supner of Statistical Section, Anthropological Survey of India, Nagpur for the analysis.
of the data. Sri A.L. Deshpande helped me in the preparation of diagrams and I am very much thankful to him.

I wish to express my gratitude to Sri J. Sreenath, my colleague for his many suggestions and help at every stage of the present work. I am also thankful to Dr. S. Menaharen, Sri Parthasarathy Dher, Sri Ramesh and Sri V.J. Somnangar, my colleagues for their help in various ways.

I am highly obliged to Dr. F.B.Gai and to Sri Gungol and other staff members of the Department of Anthropology, Karnataka University, Dharwad for their help.

I dutifully acknowledge my thanks to Dr. Sreedhar, Dr. Chandrasekhar of Mobile Medical Unit, Mannanoor and to Dr. Sunkanna of Atmakur for their hospitality and help during the data collection. Lastly, I would like to record my thanks to Sri P. Monjre for typing the manuscript with great care.

(S. M. Sirajuddin)