Acknowledgement

I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to my guide Dr. U.G. Bhat, Reader Department of Marine Biology, Karnataka University Post graduate Centre, Kodibag Karwar for his valuable guidance, supervision and constant encouragement throughout the tenure of my research work and preparation of the thesis.

I would like to place on record my gratitude and indebtedness to Deputy Registrar, Cat-I cell, Karnataka University, Dharwad for financial assistance.

I am thankful to Dr.(Smt) Kusuma Neelakantan, Professor, Department of Marine Biology, Karnataka University Post graduate Centre, Kodibag Karwar for her valuable advice and constant encouragement during the period of this thesis work.

I am thankful to Dr. V. N. Nayak, Professor and Prof. K.V.RadhaKrishnan for their ever-willing encouragement during the research work.

I am thankful to Dr. J. L. Rathod and Dr. U.G. Naik Department of Marine Biology, Karnataka University Post graduate Centre, Kodibag Karwar for their encouragement during the research work.

I am deeply indebted to, Mr. Divakar, ICMR, Belgaum and Mr. Anil R. Naik, NRDMS Karwar for their help while conducting the experiments.

I deeply render my gratitude to Dr. M. D. Subhash Chandra, Scientist and Office incharge, CES-IISc Field station, Kumta, for helping
me in collection of references and suggestions throughout the research.

I am thankful to friends from NIO, CAS Marine Biology, Annamali, Potonovo, CES-IISc Field station, Kumta, Dept. of Zoology, Madras University, Chennai, NBFGR, Cochin and CMFRI for their regular help in collection of references and study material.

I express my thanks to Sri. C. T. Harikantra, librarian and Sri. Govind Salaskar Laboratory Assistant, Department of Marine Biology, Karnatak University Post graduate Centre, Kodibag, Karwar for their regular help during my research work.

I am extremely grateful to my Parents for moral support and help during the tenure of this study.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not recollect the support and help rendered by my Sisters Smt. Devaki Arunkumar Rao and Smt. Shobha Gajanan Mesta during the tenure of my work.

I am very much thankful to my boatmen Deva Ambig, for his company during Sampling.

Lastly, I am very much grateful to Non-teaching staff and Hostel mates of Kali Boys hostel for help and Chairman Department of Marine Biology Karwar, for extending me the facilities to carry out the research without any obstacle.

Karwar

(P. N. Mesta)