ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am grateful to Dr. Bhagyashri A. Shanbhag, Lecturer, Department of Studies in Zoology, Karnataka University, Dharwad for her erudite guidance, persistent help and encouragement throughout the course of investigation.

I record my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. V. B. Nadkarni, Professor of Zoology and former Chairman of the Department for giving me an opportunity for carrying out the research work, constant encouragement and reviewing the manuscript.

I am grateful to Prof. (Dr.) S. Basalingappa, former Chairman and Prof. (Dr.) S. K. Saidapur, present Chairman of the Department for providing facilities to carry out the research work.

I am also grateful to Dr. M. A. Hooli, Dr. S. A. Nevagi, Dr. B. Y. M. Gouder (Retd.), Readers in the department of zoology for their constant help and encouragement, and Dr. I. D. Shetty, Reader in Statistics for providing statistical expertise and guidance.

I am thankful to the University Grants Commission, New Delhi, for awarding a Teacher Fellowship under the Faculty Improvement Programme; the Management of the M.G.M. College, Udupi and the former principals of the college, Prof. K. K. Easwaran and
Prof. K. Ram Bhat and the present principal of the college, Dr. Alwyn D'Souza and the Deputy Director of Collegiate Education, Mangalore for deputing me as a Teacher Fellow to the Karnatak University, Dharwad to carry out research work towards the Ph.D. degree.

I wish to record my sincere thanks to my research colleagues, Dr. (Miss.) M.S. Nayak, Dr. (Miss.) L.S. Doddamani, Mr. C.K. Poojari, Mr. P.K. Nakadi, Mr. R.G. Bharbhari, Mrs. S.V. Vanakudre, Miss R.N. Sharma and Mr. V.D. Hegde for their kind cooperation and help.

I am thankful to Mr. R.F. Dandappanavar, for carefully maintaining the live stock of the lizards during the course of work and Mr. Santosh, Proprietor, Santosh Typing Chamber, Dharwad for neatly typing the manuscript of the thesis.

DHARWAD.

8th April, 1991.

(B.S. Krishna Prasad)