Acknowledgement

Debt of gratitude is very hard to repay. Words fail scanty when I reminisce the help by a host of personages who have helped me generously and whole heartedly to complete my present endeavor.

First of all I would like to thank GOD who have always been there for me during my hard and happy times. I express my thanks to Almighty who have ordered all things in measure, and number, and weight.

It's a great privilege for me to express a deep sense of gratitude and sincere appreciation to my revered teacher Dr. N. S Atri, Professor and Head, Department of Botany, Punjabi University, Patiala for his sagacious guidance, inspiration, constant supervision, untiring efforts, concrete suggestions and encouragement during the course of present investigation, without which the present endeavor would not have achieved the same status. I extend my heartfelt thanks to him forever throughout my life.

I am immensely grateful to Dr. R. C. Upadhyay, Principal Scientist, Directorate of Mushroom Research, Solan and my Co-supervisor for his advice and invaluable comments and unflinching help and support during the course of present investigations.

I am profoundly grateful to Dr. Munruchi Kaur, Associate Professor, Department of Botany, Punjabi University, Patiala for cooperation and her valuable suggestions during the course of present investigation.

I am extremely thankful to Dr. R. C. Gupta, Professor and Ex-Head, Department of Botany, Punjabi University, Patiala for his constant encouragement and help in the form of laboratory facilities during his tenure as Head of the Department.
I sincerely feel thankful to Dr. Manject Singh, Director, Directorate of Mushroom Research. I owe a great sense of gratitude to him for laboratory facilities at DMR Solan and constant encouragement.

My heartiest thanks are due to all my colleagues Samidha, Harwinder, Lata, Aman Dee, Sapan, Yadwinder Singh, Santosh, Indu, Pooja, Raj Prashar and Yadwinder Damotra for providing the congenial atmosphere for work and their ever available help when I was low with tough time and fighting back to get on the track.

I also pay my sincere thanks to the Library staff of Punjabi University Patiala and DMR Solan and non teaching staff for their time to time help.

I owe a place of pride for my Grandparents, Chachu and Chachi ji, Mom and Dad, Brothers little lovely Romu & Saurabh, sisters Surkhi and Samriti. Without their encouragement, love and blessings this treatise would have remained in my imagination only.

I am extremely fortunate in having the best of family that God could provide on this earth.

I am thankful to all those who helped me in the successful completion of such an important pursuit.

Babita Kumari

Date: 08-06-12
Place: Patiala