ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It’s my proud privilege to express the deep sense of gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Asha G. Mane, Professor and Head, Department of Home Science, Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati for her constant source of encouragement, motivation and valuable guidance throughout the course of this investigation. I have been most fortunate in working under her supervision and without her backing and enormous help, this work would not have been possible.

I am also thankful to Dr. Manisha P. Kale, Reader, Department of Home Science, Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati for her constant encouragement in pursuit of research.

My sincere thanks are due to Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAE) of Nagpur for permitting me to carry out animal experiment in my department. I am equally thankful to Department of Biochemistry, Sant Tukdoji Maharaj Nagpur University, Nagpur for providing me experimental animals within time.

I owe my heartfelt thanks to Dr. A.G. Wankhade, Head, Department of Zoology, and his staff, Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati for their valuable guidance and assistance rendered to carry out the estimations.

I want to pay my sincere thanks to Dr. Milind Dudhane, Head, Department of Biochemistry, Panjabrao Deshmukh Medical College, Amravati, who spared his valuable time to make prompt comments and suggestions, and put me on the right track for the completion of the animal experiment.

I am indebted to Mr. Gajanan Santape, Lecturer in Zoology, Vidya Bharti Mahavidyalaya, Amravati, who timely helped me and taught techniques of blood collection from eye of rats.

I express my heartiest thanks to Dr. Atul K. Bodhke, Lecturer in Zoology, J.B. Patil Sanglurkar Mahavidyalaya, Daryapur, for encouragement and help rendered by him throughout the research work.

My special word of thanks are also due to Mr. Lalit D. Meischeri, Tech-know consultant, Mumbai for his technical guidance.

A word of thanks would be insufficient to acknowledge the co-operation extended by Dr. P.S. Shinde, Professor, Department of Extension Education, Dr.
Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola for his valuable guidance for statistical analysis and scientific writing.

I am thankful to Dr. Gangadhar Pusatkar, Head, Plant Pathology and Mushroom Laboratory, Shri Shivaji Agriculture College, Amravati for his timely guidance during production of fruiting and mycelium. I am also thankful to Prof. P.D. Deshmukh, Head, Agriculture Department, Shri Shivaji Agriculture College, Amravati for his timely guidance.

I would like to thank to Dr. Narendra R. Jadhao, Veterinary Doctor and Assistant General Manager, Uttara Foods and Feeds Private Limited, Rajasthan for providing me required material for my animal experiment within time.

My sincere thanks to Dr. Dinesh M. Sakarkar, Principal, S.N. Pharmacy College, Pusad for his valuable suggestions in the formulation of doses for nutraceuticals.

I am thankful to Mr. Milind Kambe for assisting me during production of mycelium.

The above work would not have been successfully completed without the devoted help of all my research colleagues, my friends and department staff.

I shall be failing in my duty if I do not thank the librarian of National Research centre for Mushroom, Solan (H.P.), who managed prompt service and made available abstracts and Journals of medicinal mushroom during the conference services.

Indeed, I have no word to express my heartfelt gratitude to my family for their inspiration, affection and blessings. I owe my existence and whatever I have achieved to my dear parents and brother Mr. Atul Bhaise, whose blessings and encouragement have made me to attain the highest ideas in all spheres of my life.

I am much beholden to my affectionate friend Ms. Sonal Degwekar and Mr. Pankaj Degwekar for a computation of my thesis.

Finally, I cannot resist myself in extending thanks to those who have been directly or indirectly contributed in one or the other form in the completion of this research work.

Place: Amravati
Date: 11/12/07

(Shilpa A. Bhaise)