ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It gives me immense pleasure to express my profound sense of gratitude and indebtedness to my research supervisor, Dr. T.N. Lakhanpal, Associate Professor, Department of Bio-Sciences, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla for his eximious guidance, valuable suggestions, constructive criticism and constant encouragement. His extra ordinary interest in the subject made this work possible.

I am indebted to Prof. H.O. Agrawal, Dean of Studies and Prof. V.K. Rai, Chairman, Department of Bio-Sciences and also to Professors R.K. Malhotra and L.R. Verma for providing me the necessary research facilities, continuous help and encouragement.

Special mention is merited to acknowledge my gratitude to Dr. Marcel V. Locquin, France for his help in the authentication of some species. I am personally grateful to him for discussing the systematic position of many important and difficult species while he was in India during 1985. This has enabled me to analyse the species more critically.

I am also grateful to Dr. James Cavender, Ohio University, Dr. E. Salzman, Dr. Gary Lincoff past and present Presidents of North American Mycological Association and their party of mushroom hunters from U.S.A., Dr. Van T. Cotter,
Biology Department, Virginia tech, U.S.A. and Dr. Enric Gracia, Barcelona, Spain for very useful discussions and helpful suggestions during their visits to our laboratory.

Thanks are also due to the librarian CPRI, Shimla, IARI, New Delhi, FRI, Dehradun, NCMRT, Solan and H.P. University, Shimla for allowing me free access to the journals and periodicals.

I take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to Mr. N.S. Bisht, Assistant Professor, Mr. Ashok Kumar, Mr. Arvind Bhatt, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla and Mr. Rajesh Sharma, Panjab University, Chandigarh for their help at all occasions, coined me a remembrance forever.

Sincere thanks are due to Mr. Sunil Chaudhary, Mr. Onkar Shad, Mr. Kamraj Kaisth, Mr. Rajeev Sharma, Mr. Dev Dutt Sharma, Miss. Shramja Malhotra, Miss. Poonam Wahal, Miss. Nirmal Verma, Miss. Bindu Sharma, Miss. Archana Chaturvedi and other colleagues in the department for the cooperation they rendered during the course of my research.

Thanks are also due to the members of the Staff, Department of Bio-Sciences for their kind cooperation during the research work.

A word of praise for Mr. Jagdish Thakur, for his painstaking efforts in typing this manuscript in the least possible time.
I am unable to find adequate words to express my heartiest and sincerest gratitude to my parents who have been a constant source of inspiration and encouragement to me in the completion of this work.

Last but not the least, I would like to express my gratitude to my beloved UMA for her inspiration and moral support which greatly helped me in this endeavour.

(Rajendra Prasad Bhatt)