ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I have paramount pleasure and honour to be indebted to my learned, highly capable tireless research guide Professor B. A. Hegde, a man far more greater than the mundane words can signify the propriety for his able guidance and encouragement which symbolizes all the qualities of devoted teacher. He is versatile in thinking and developing a new knowledge in research methodology so as to build original creative model with applied outlook. It is my good fortune to work under the guidance of such a dedicated, magnanimous and indefatigable man like him. This piece of work has seen the light of the day due to his encouragement and inspiration. I humbly say that words are too frail to thank him adequately.

I am extremely grateful to Prof. M.S. Patil, Head of the Botany Department for rendering the facilities and constant encouragement.

I express my earnest gratitude to my learned teachers Dr. P. D. Chavan, Dr. T. M. Patil, Dr. (Smt.) L.J. Bhosale, Dr. B. A. Karadge, Dr. G. B. Dixit and Dr. S. R. Yadav for their constant personal inspiration, encouragement and moral support. I am also indebted to Dr. (Mrs.) U.S. Yadav for her valuable help she rendered during the initial stages of this piece of work.

I am deeply indebted to Prof. K.J. Patil, Co-ordinator, C.F.C., Shivaji University, Anil Mohite and others for providing necessary facilities. I also wish to record here the help rendered by Director, N.B.R.I., Lucknow, Director, N.C.L., Pune and General manager, PHYTO PHARMA, Kolhapur.
I wish to extend my gratitude to Shri. M.R. Deshmukh who did most of my photography very promptly and thus helped me to carry on work without break. My heartiest thanks are due to Dr. Sheela Fernandes for rendering timely help. I am also thankful to all non-teaching staff and especially Shri. J.S. Chavan and Krishna Patil for their valuable co-operation. It is needless to say that I am grateful to all other members of the department and the members of the various sections in the university, who extended cooperation to me.

I profusely thank my young friends and colleagues Altafhussain Nadaf, Swagat Banik, Milind SirDesai, Sayaji Gaikwad, Ravi Chavare, Sujata Kalebere, Priti Mahekar and Rajaram Gurav for extending generous help.

I will fail in my duty if I do not express my heartiest thanks to my wife Sou. Asha who has painstakingly supported me during this arduous endeavor. I also owe a debt of love to my nephew Tejas and son Aditya.