ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my sincere gratitude to Prof. M.Y. Qadri (Director) and Prof. D.P. Zutshi, Centre of Research for Development, University of Kashmir for their valuable guidance and keen interest during the course of present research work.

I am thankful to Dr. A.M. Yousuf, Reader, Department of Zoology, University of Kashmir for his valuable guidance, help and encouragement without which it would have been impossible for me to accomplish this task.

I am highly indebted to Prof. M.Y. Qadri, for providing me the necessary laboratory facilities.

I extend my deep sense of gratitude to all my family members, especially my husband, for their encouragement and blessing during my studies. My thanks are also due to my friends and colleagues.

Thanks are also due to Mr. Mohammad Sidiq Dar, for typing the manuscript.

TASNEEM JAN KENG