Acknowledgement

First, I bow in reverence to “Almighty Allah” Omnipotent and Omnipresent, for it is indeed His blessing alone, which provided me enough zeal to complete this work.

I deem it a great privilege in expressing my profound regard and deep sense of gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Hisamuddin, whose professional acumen, meticulous suggestions, patient hearing, plausible and erudite thinking and obtrusive criticism helped me greatly in defying the conundrums of this work presented.

I am highly obliged to Prof. Ainal Haq Khan, Chairman, Department of Botany, A.M.U, Aligarh for providing all the necessary research facilities.

I wish to express my special thanks to Prof. Arif Inam for constant support and encouragement in my academic pursuits.

In this hectic world we live in, we very rarely take time to complement people for a job well done. But I really want to say a special thanks to my seniors Dr. Rasheeda Parveen and Saba Asiz for their valuable suggestions and continuous encouragement; my juniors Tanweer, Aiman, Swarn, Meraj, Raze, Mustaboon, Uzma and Nazir deserve a note of special thanks for their paramount support and good wishes.

I especially wish to thank my friend Minu who has poured immense love on me and have been a source of support and encouragement during the course of my research
work. She is just like the mirrors of the kaleidoscope who will always shine in the bottom of my heart.

I am highly thankful to my dearest friends Jakkra, Iram, Asra, Iram Siddiqui, Bushra, Shafia, Nazia and to my room-mate Swapanal as they have provided me with the full strength of their help and support.

I have nothing to offer my family members but this small piece of work as a token of love and respect. My vocabulary fails to express my sincere feelings to my adorable Mummy and Papa who sacrificed everything to give me the best education possible; to my sister, Tarannum for her loving and stimulating backup.

The words at my command are inadequate both in form and spirit to express my deep sense of indebtedness to my elder sister Dr. Shagufia Niyaz for her colossal support and encouragement as a friend, philosopher and guide throughout my thick and thin.

A special appreciation to my uncles (Mr. Mohd. Khajaal and Mr. Syed Shoaib Ali) and D.D. Pandey Bhai whose care, encouragement and fervent support helped me in every facet of this course; to my cousin brothers Ditshad, Asif, Jaizi, Shazia and Asim; to my cousin sisters Saba and Musheera for their indispensable support and friendly accompaniment.
The acknowledgement will remain incomplete without mentioning my brother in law Dr. Firoz Ahmad and all my relatives for their constant encouragement, guidance and forebearance and above all their invaluable prayers.

I am also thankful to the staff members for constant help. Moreover, I am also thankful to the gardeners who provided good help to me.

Award of Fellowship by U.G.C. Government of India, New Delhi is gratefully acknowledged.

I am extremely thankful to Zaheer Bhai and Mr. Shau for extending their adept services on computer for typing the manuscript.

Last but not the least I am highly thankful to great visionary Sir Syed Ahmad Khan for laying the foundation of this great seat of learning- Aligarh Muslim University and I feel proud to be the part of this institution.

With all faith in Almighty, I place this work in the hands of my examiner with the hope that he will bear with the shortcomings that might have crept into this thesis inadvertently.

(Tabassum Niyaz)

21/06/2008