ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am specially thankful to my academic supervisor Dr. V. Elangovan, Associate Professor and Head of the department, Applied Animal Sciences, School for Biosciences and Biotechnology, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (A Central University), Vidya Vihar, Raebareli Road, Lucknow, for his initial confidence on me for research, subsequently encouragement and unflinching support. His scientific and friendlier involvement triggered and nurtured my academic career.

I am graciously thankful to Hon’ble Vice-chancellor, Prof. R. C. Sobti, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, for providing me such a golden opportunity which turned my life in a different shape.

I would also like to thank Dean, Prof. D. R. Modi, Department of Biotechnology, School for Biosciences and Biotechnology, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, for providing research facilities and academic environment.

I feel privilege and honor to express my deep sense of gratitude to Prof. Kamal Jaiswal, Dr. Venkatesh Kumar R., Dr. Suman Mishra, Dr. Abha Mishra and Dr. Sandhya, faculty members, Department of Applied Animal Sciences, School for Biosciences and Biotechnology, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (A Central University), Vidya Vihar, Raebareli Road, Lucknow, for inspiration and valuable suggestion in the present investigation which made this period as long lasting memory.

I immensely thank to Dr. Yuvana Satya Priya, Assistant Professor, Residential Coaching Academy, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (A Central University),
Vidya Vihar, Raebareli Road, Lucknow, for her moral support, invaluable suggestion and constant encouragement during the study period of my research.

My research is entirely based on field work so it was almost impossible for me to carry out this research work without support of friends, local people and relatives. So I would like thanks to Mr. Shubhash Chandra, Mr. Mayaram and Mr. Pankaj Kumar (Ambedkar Nagar, Basti, Faizabad and Sultanpur), Dr. Ram Naresh, Mr. Krishna Pal and Mr. Hariom Singh (Amroha), Mr. Deepak Kumar, Mr. Awadhesh Kumar and Mr. Harendra Ram (Azamgarh), Mr. Ram Dileep (Badaun, Bareilly and Pilibhit), Mr. Rajan Verma (Baghpat and Ballia), Mr. Kuldeep (Barabanki), Dr. Vikas Kumar (Bijnor), Mr. R. N. Kureel, Mr. Ravi Kumar and Mr. Varun Kumar (Deoria), Mr. Yogesh Kushwaha (Firozabad), Mr. Pramod Kumar (Hardoi), Mr. Rajan Verma and Mr. Ram Dileep (Kanpur), Mr. Ajay Kumar (Kanpur Dehat), Mr. Suraj Singh (Lakheempur Khiri), Mr. Deep Narayan Prasad, Mr. Rajan Verma, Mr. Yogesh Kushwaha and Mr. Praveen Chand Neeraj (Lucknow), Mr. Hitesh Berman (Meerut, Muzaffarnagar and Saharanpur), Mr. Shubhash Chandra and Mr. Ranjeet Kumar (Raebareli and Unnao), Mr. Shani Kumar Bhartiya (Sidharth Nagar), Mr. Shailendra Kumar and Mr. Rajesh Kumar Gautam (Sitapur) and many local peoples who provides information about the roost sites of *Pteropus giganteus* and also helped in their respective district.

I wish to lend my cordial thanks to my seniors Dr. Virendra Mathur, Dr. Harendra Kumar, Dr. Mukesh Kumar, Mr. Pawan Kumar Mishra and friends Mr. Deep Narayan Prasad, Mr. Shani Kumar Bhartiya, Mrs. Akanksha Dwivedi, Miss. Manisha and Mr. Varun Kumar who helped and co-operated in all situations of the research period. Just because of their cordial support, this journey became a memorable event..
I am extremely thankful to some of my close friends Dr. Arun Kumar, Mr. Prateek Gautam, Mr. Gaurav Hitkari, Mr. Ajay Kumar, Mr. Krishsna Mohan Maitreya, Mr. Praveen Kumar, Mr. Pankaj Kumar, Mr. Amit Rai, Mr. Vinit Raj, Mr. Pranesh Kumar, Mr. Dileep Kumar, Mr. Diwakar Ram and Mr. Ram Dileep for their constructive and multidirectional support whenever I needed during research period.

I am also thankful to non-teaching staff of the Department of Applied Animal Sciences Mr. Shashank Tiwari, Mrs. Dipti Singh, Miss. Sunita Yadav, Mr. Abhishek Prakash Tiwari and Mr. Deepak Singh for their official help and support in research facilities.

All the words in lexicon will be futile meaningless if, I fail to express my gratitude towards my respected parents, Shri Chhotkun and Smt. Bhan Mati.

I am failing short of words in expressing my love and affection to my elder brothers Mr. Govind Ram and Mr. Madan Lal and elder sister Mrs. Pushpa Devi and my brother in law Mr. Maya Ram who sacrificed their present for my bright future. At last but not the least, my nephews Shubhash, Himanshu, Divyansu, Ritesh, Mayank and lovely niece Arunima who always make me smile through their naughty and lovely activities and made this period a worth remembering period of my life.

Date: (Ram Kumar)
Place: Lucknow