Acknowledgements

At first, it is a pleasure for me to implore reverting gratitude and indebtedness to my cogent, perspicacious and reverend supervisor of the present research work, Dr. Sudip Barat, Professor, Department of Zoology, University of North Bengal for unequivocal motivation, benevolent guidance, affectionate encouragement and constant supervision during the entire period of investigation and preparation of manuscript. His indefatigable spirit shall always my panacea.

It is a glorifying pleasure for me to record my thanks to the Honourable Vice-Chancellor, University of North Bengal, Dean, Registrar and other officials of the University for the academic and administrative facilities extended to me.

It is my pleasure to express my sincere thanks to the Head, Department of Zoology, University of North Bengal for providing me all the necessary facilities to carry out the research work.

I express deep gratitude to my respected teachers Prof. B. C. Pal, Prof. A. K. Chakravarty, Prof. D. C. Deb, Prof. J. Pal, Prof. Ananda Mukherjee and Prof. T. K. Chaudhuri for their useful suggestion, cooperation and constructive ideas throughout the pursuit of present work. Further, I extend my sincere thanks to all the staff members of Zoology Department, University of North Bengal for their kind cooperation.

Words cannot express heartfelt gratitude towards Dr. M. Bahadur, Dr. S. Bhattacharjee, for their useful suggestion, cooperation and constructive ideas throughout the pursuit of present work.

A note of thanks to my research colleagues Arindam Das, P. Jha, D. Saha, Debashree Mondal, Bishu Singh, Mayukh Sarkar, Deepa Barman, Pritam Goswami, Chandan Chakraborty, Rudra Prasad Roy, Soma Banerjee, Rakesh Bhagat, Ruksa Nur of Department of Zoology, North Bengal University for their cooperative support at all stages of the work.

I am deeply indebted to our Principal Dr. R. P. Dhakal and all staff of Kalimpong College, especially Mr. B. B. Sharma, Dr. D.C. Roy, Mr. M. N. Bhattacharya, Mr. Pravat Roy, Mr. N. Das, Dr. J. Pradhan, Dr. S. Mukherjee, Mr. D. D. Rai, Dr. S. Mondal, Mr. S. Saha for their unstinted support, cooperation, and encouragement during the study.
The author also likes to record his thanks to Mr. Gopal Chandra Mondal, Assistant Professor in Economics, Kalimpong College, who tirelessly helped me in statistical analyses. I am also grateful to the Chairman, Alipurduar Nature Club, and Mr. Soven Sanyal, Mr. Sumilan Ghosh, Mr. Sajal Mitra, Mr. Bipul Mazumder, Dr. Debasis Dutta for their support and help.

I would like to express my sincere thank to Mr. Suraj Rai, Kanchha Monger, Nabin Gupta, Gopal Chhetri, Krishna Pradhan, Shanti Rai, Bhim Bahadur Chhetri, Sangay Sherpa, Purna Bahadur Rai for their kind cooperation during field visit and sampling.

The author also expresses his sense of deep gratitude to Dr. Mrinal Mukherjee, of CIFRI, Barrackpore, Prof. A.P.Das, Department of Botany, University Of North Bengal, Dr. U. C. Pal, Principal, L. N. Khan Womens’ College, Prof. D. N. Das for their valuable suggestion and encouragements during the course of the study.

I am indebted to my entire family members; Specially I would like to thank my wife Shruti, son Udvas, daughter Samprit and uncle Anil Acharjee for their unending understanding and support.

I also like to thank to those well wishers who helped me knowingly or unknowingly during the period of present study.

Raja Rammohunpur

Manik Lal Acharjee

Dated-