Acknowledgements

During the course of this study I had received tremendous help from various sources. I would like to thank all the people without the support of whom this research work would not have been completed.

Firstly, I wish to give special thanks to my research supervisor Dr. Aparajita De, Asst. Professor, Department of Ecology and Environmental Science, Assam University, Silchar for her valuable guidance, constant encouragement, valuable suggestions and all help rendered in her capacity and supervision in all the stages of this study. I also express my heartfelt thanks to my co-supervisor Dr. Sudhakar Reddy Chintala, Scientist-SE, Forestry & Ecology Group, National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad for his continuous support and assistance, creative comments and suggestions.

I am grateful to Dr. P.K. Hajra, Former Director, Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata, for his help in plant identification.

I would like to acknowledge the help rendered by the local communities of Jiribam Sub-Division during field work. I also thank D FO and forest staffs of Jiribam Forest Division for their co-operation. I extend my sincere thanks to Dr. S Singsit, Former PCCF, Department of Forest, Manipur for his valuable help.

The financial support from the University Grants Commission (UGC) is gratefully acknowledged. Thanks are also due to the Department of Ecology and Environmental Science, Assam University, Silchar for providing facilities during my work and the faculty members of the department for their kind support.

It gives me immense pleasure to thank my colleagues for their sincere help at various stages and also for the moral encouragement which inspired me.

Last but not the least; I owe my gratitude to my parents, sisters and brother for their constant moral support and confidence they have put in me.

Place:  
Date:  
Khwairakpam Romesh Singh