ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I deem it a great pleasure to express my sincere and deep sense of gratitude to my respected research supervisor Prof. Dr. Md. Bashah Mofiddeen, M.Sc., Ph.D., F.A.Z., F.N.E.S.A., M.G.Z.S. (West Germany), Professor and Head of the Department of Zoology and Microbiology, Sri Krishnadasvaraya University, Anantapur and Best-Scientist awardee by the National Environmental Science Academy for suggesting me this topic, for his invaluable guidance, keen interest and constant encouragement throughout the course of this investigation. He instilled great confidence, sense of direction and achievement in me. My sincere thanks are also due to him being the erstwhile Head of the Department of Bio-Sciences for providing me necessary facilities to carry out this investigation. I express my heartfelt thanks to all my research colleagues for the help extended to me in some way or other during the course of this study. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the local Fisheries Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Anantapur for their kind help rendered in supplying the fishes required for this investigation.

SHAHNAWAZ.