Acknowledgements.

It gives me a great pleasure to express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude towerds my guide Dr. G. B. Dixit. His able guidance and inspiring suggestions are noteworthy, without which this piece of work would not have been concluded.

It is my pleasent duty to offer my sincere thanks to Dr. U. K. Kulkarni, Head, Department of Botany, Shivaji University, Kolhapur for providing the necessary laboratory facilities.

My gratefull thanks are due to Dr. B. A. Hegde, Dr. B. A. Karadge and Dr. P. D. Chavan for their valuable suggestions and encouragement during this work.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all my friends for helping me in one way or the other during the course of research.

I must thank the management, K. L.EE. Society, Belgaum and the Principal Shri S. M. S. College, Athni for their kind permission to undertake and complete the work. Thanks are also due to U. G. C. authorities for the financial assistance.

I owe a special word of thanks to Shri Deshmukh for his skillfull photography and Mrs. Khot for her neat and prompt typing.

V. S. Vastrad.
(Candidate)