

Acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I take an opportunity to express my sense of gratitude and deep reverence to my guide **Dr. (Mrs.) A.B. Sabale**. Her valuable guidance and timely suggestions led me to complete this piece of work. She remained constant source of encouragement. I remain owe towards her.

My special thanks to **Dr. T. M. Patil** and **Dr. B.A. Karadge** for their valuable help and fruitful suggestions during my research work.

I am thankful to **Prof. M.S. Patil**, Head, Department of Botany and **Prof. B.A. Hegde**, former Head of Botany Department for providing the necessary facilities to carry out research work.

My sincere thanks to all the teachers in the Department of Botany, Shivaji University, Kolhapur and **Prof. J. B. Patil** and **Dr. T.G. Nagraj**, Department of Botany, The New College, Kolhapur.

I am extremely grateful to Sheela Fernandes and Ujjwala Mane for providing time and their kind co-operation during my research work.

I deem it my pleasant duty to offer thanks to my friends, Rajshree, Mrudula, Vandana, Sujata, Alaka, Maya, Mrunalini, Tejaswini, Mr. Jadhav, Mr. Nadaf, Mr. Banik, all senior and junior research colleagues in this department for their help in my research work.

I am also thankful to non-teaching staff of this department. The dailywages, labourers especially Krishnath Patil and Krishnath Chavan who helped me in laboratory culture experiments.

I will fail in my duties if I do not recall my warm feelings towards my family members for their patience. They have provided me the most favourable environment for my education. Continuous inspiration, encouragement, blessings and best wishes of my family members especially my mummy, daddy, brother Shashikant, and Sisters Alka, Savita, and Yashashree and my parents have tried to keep me cheerful and gay throughout, which enabled me to complete this piece of work. My gratitude towards them has no bounds.

Mr. Satish Anekar and Mr. Shrikant Bernalkar deserves the special thanks for neat typing and Mr. P.V. Ravan for graph tracing. Last but not least I express my deep sense of gratitude to all my well wishers.

Miss Padmashree V. Powar.