ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I express deep sense of gratitude towards my research guide Dr. A.N. Thite whose able guidance and constant encouragement enabled me to finalise this piece of work. His versatile knowledge thinking in the field and research methodology has given proper shape to my research work.

I am very much thankful to Dr.B.A. Hegde, Head of the Department for his constant encouragement and facilities provided by him.

I simply have no words to express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. B.A. Karadge, Department of Botany. His able guidance and help is beyond all measures - beyond all words.

I am very much thankful to Dr.S.R.Yadav, Dr.G.B.Dixit and Dr.P.D.Chavan for the kind help rendered to me.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not remember at this juncture the help extended by following people, Dr. M.S. Chari, Director, Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry has taken keen interest in providing the literature, Dr.R. Lakshminarayana, Project Co-ordinator (Tobacco), Gujarat Agricultural University, Anana, Dr.B.K. Patel, Senior Biochemist for their kind help in chemical analysis of tobacco samples. Dr. Bhat, Tobacco Specialist, Tobacco Research Station, Nipani, for their kind help.

I am very much thankful to Shri Khot for permitting me to collect the plant material from his field.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to my teachers, teacher fellows, research scholars and non-teaching staff in the Department of Botany, who have directly or indirectly extended their co-operation and helped me.

I am also thankful to Shri Chougule for prompt and neat typing work, Shri Ravan for tracing work and Shri Deshmukh artist for photography work, Navarang Printing Press for elegant printing and binding.

This piece of work could only be concluded by the blessings of my parents.

Finally, I express my deep sense of gratitude to all my well wishers.

GVPUH - Miss Geeta V. Patil