

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I feel great delight to express my deep sense of gratitude towards my respectable teacher and eminent research guide Dr. P.D. Chavan, the words fall short to expressing this feelings. His able guidance and continuous encouragement enabled me to finalise this piece of work. It is my privilege that, I have the opportunity of working under his guidance.

I am very much thankful to Prof.Dr. B.A. Hegde, Head of the Department, for his constant encouragement and offering all kinds of help and laboratory facilities. Also, I thank Prof. Dr. M.S. Patil, Former Head of the Department.

I sincerely acknowledge the University Grants Commission, New Delhi for awarding me a year long teacher fellowship for the completion of this work. The help rendered by Mr. R.G. Desai, Deputy Registrar, STAT Section and his staff is gratefully acknowledged.

I am very much thankful to Dr. B.A. Karadge, Dr. G.B. Dixit, Dr. T.M. Patil, Dr. Mrs. A.B. Sabale, and staff for their kind help rendered.

I deem it my pleasant duty to offer my sincere

thanks to Hon'ble Prin. Abhaykumar Salunkhe, Secretary, Shree Swami Vivekanand Shikshan Sanstha, Kolhapur. I am also delightful to mention here the kind attitude of Prin. P.U. Sheth, L.B.S. College, Satara, towards my research and guidance.

I express my deep sense of gratitude towards Dr. Bale V.S. Head, Botany Department, Prof. Patil R.G., Head, Zoology Department, L.B.S. College, Satara, for their continuous inspiration. It is my pleasant duty to offer thanks to my colleagues, especially to Dr. Patil C.R., Prof. Khade, S.K., Prof. Panaskar V.A., Prof. Ohol R., Prof. P.R. Patil, Prof. Shejval R.V., Dr. Ubale D.B. and Prof. Sou. Patane for their co-operation.

I have to mention special thanks to Dr. S.R. Chavan, Y.C. Institute of Sciences, Karad and Dr. D.K. Gaikwad Y.C. Warana Mahavidyalaya, Warananagar for active co-operation during my research work. I am thankful to Prof. P.S. Jadhav, Prof. Shankarrao Patil and other research fellows for giving help throughout the course of research work, as well as Mr. S.B. Patil, Mr. D. Y. Khot, Mr. M. R. Deshmukh, Mr. A. P. Sasane and non teaching staff and field working Mali for their kind co-operation and valuable help throughout the course of my research work.

I am thankful to my friend Mr. Satish Anekar, GPR Computer Consultants, Kolhapur, for typing this thesis neatly with nice graphics.

I will fail in my duties if I do not recall my warm feelings towards my beloved Appa, Aai, Dadasaheb, Dipak, Shashikant, Bajirao Jadhav (Pappa), Vahini Sou. Sharada, Sou. Kamal and Hon'ble Dadasaheb Chavan and family for their continuous inspiration, encouragement, blessings and best wishes.

I remain indebted to my beloved wife Sou. Sunanda, Son Chi. Kedar and Daughter Sona for enabling me to complete this piece of work. Also, I am thankful to Chavan and Gaikwad family kept me cheerful my gratitude to all of them knows no bounds.

Last but not least I express my deep sense of gratitude to all my well wishers.

Suresh Bhimarao Patil