ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENI

I feel a great pleasure in expressing my deep sense of gratitude and reverence towards my teacher and eminent research guide Dr. (Mrs.) A.B. Sabale. Words fail to express my feelings towards her for valuable guidance, inspiration and timely piece of work. She has guided my research with parental care and affection. She remained a constant source of encouragement.

I am thankful to Prof. B.A. Hegde, Head, Department of Botany and Prof. M.S. Patil, former Head of the Department for providing the necessary facilities to carry out this research work. Ny special thanks are to Dr. P.D. Chavan, Dr. J.M. Patil, Dr. B.A. Karadge and Dr. G.B. Dixit for their valuable help and suggestions during my research work.

U sincerely thank to all the teachers in the Department of Botany, Shivaji University, Kolhapur; Mr. A.B. Kamble and Mr. C.J. Khilare, Department of Botany, Dahiwadi College and Principal Rade, Mr. Patil, Head of Botany Department, Mr. Magdum and Mr. Mujawar, Kanya Mahavidhyalaya, Uslampur.

I deem it my pleasant duty to offer thanks to my friends Preeti, Sujata, Kalyani, Anju, Sanjay, Altaf, Nitin, Swagat, Milind and all colleagues in this department for their help in my research work.

I will fail in my duties if I do not recall my warm feeling towards my family members for their patience. They have provided me the most favourable environment for my education.

I am greatly obliged to my parents and Ravi, Varsha, Megha and Jyoti for keeping me cheerful, throughout the tenure of this work. I extend my sincere thanks to Mr. C.A. Gaikwad (Jijaji) for neat and clean graph tracing.

I am also thankful to Miss Fernandes and Miss Mane, all non-teaching staff and Common Facility Centre for helping and extending their co-operation throughout the tenure of the work.

Nimbkar Agriculture Research Institute, Phaltan, deserves special thanks for providing seeds and library facilities.

I am also grateful to Mr. Kumbhar for neat typing and artist Mr. Deshmukh for photography, lastly but not the least I am very much thankful to all my well wishers.

Rekha R. Deokar