

A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

I express my deep gratitude to my guide Dr. Jay S. Samant, for suggesting the present problem and giving continuous guidance, encouragement and every possible help during the period of these investigations.

My thanks are due to Prof. A. T. Varute, the Head Zoology Department, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, for the facilities provided and for the permission to carry out the field work at Sawantwadi.

I am extremely grateful to Shri S. G. Gawade, Principal, R. P. D. High School and Junior College, Sawantwadi, for permitting me to do this work and continuous encouragement throughout the period of research.

My thanks are also due to Shri Wadkar, Administrator, Sawantwadi Municipality for the field facilities and Shri T. N. Naik and Shri D. B. Nagawekar for giving valuable assistance during the work.

At last I wish to thank Shri Sutar, Artist, Zoology Department for preparing graphs and map and Shri B. R. Sawant for the excellent job of typing of this thesis in time.



Shri A. D. Sawant.