ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It gives me a great pleasure to mention the name of my guide Dr.(Mrs.) Meena M.Pillai, Reader in Cell Biology, Department of Zoology of Shivaji University, Kolhapur, who selected me as her student to achieve the goal of M.Phil.

A university training under her able guidance is the great ordinary means to a great but ordinary end. Dr.(Mrs.) Pillai was a guiding light in all our crucial tests which gave us courage to face any challenge. I am proud and fortunate that I got the opportunity to be her student. Her talents and education give a person a conscious view of her opinions and judgements, a truth in developing them, an eloquence in expressing them and a force in urging them. Her teaching led us to see things as they are, to go right to the point, to disentangle a skein of thought, to detect what is sophistical and to discard what is irrelevant. Her grand guidance, I am sure would be a sure way to fill any post with credit and to master any subject with facility. My life has become more richer due to her inspiring company of two years which will be ever memorable on every mode of my life.

I am grateful to Dr.V.A.Sawant, Prof. and Head of the University Department of Zoology for providing all the facilities and also for his constructive criticism. I also wish to express deeply my thanks to all my teachers and non-teaching staff in the department.

I would like to thank and express my gratitude towards, Mr. Kurane, M.M.; Mr. Jadhav, S.P.; Mr. Bodare, R.D.; Mrs. M.N.Shaikh, Mr. K.G.Chako, Salunkhe, R.N.

The excellent type-script of the present thesis is prepared by Mr.Kumbhar, I express my deep sense of gratitude towards him.

I am very much grateful to my parents, uncle, aunty, brothers and sisters who have been a source of inspiration in my career.

Last but not the least I thank the University authorities,

Late Dr.A.T.Varute, the Vice-Chancellor of this University for

allowing me to work in the Zoology Department and making

available all facilities during the course of the present

investigation.

Miss M.K.Bhoite.