## <u>A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T</u>

First and foremost, I must acknowledge Dr.B.K.' Pawar, Lecturer in Zoology, Shivaji University, Kolhapur for suggesting this problem, guiding the work and for successful completion of this thesis. He has been a constant source of inspiration and he is instrumental in training me as a research worker in Zoology. But for his able guidance, encouragement, interesting criticism of the results and many intelligent and inspiring comments on discussions, the present work would not have been completed as successfully as it has now been done.

Dr.A.T. Varute, Professor and Head of the Zoology Department, Shivaji University, Kolhapur is another source of inspiration to me. I had an opportunity of being his student during post-graduate studies and I owe my entire knowledge in Zoology to him.

My greatful thanks also go to Dr.M.N. Nalavade, Dr.S.G. Nanaware, Dr.N.K. More, Dr.V.A.Sawant, Dr.(Mrs.)M.M. Pillai, Dr.S.A. Vamburkar, Dr.J.S. Samant, Dr.M.C. Joshi and T.V. Sathe who have assisted me in various ways.

I must acknowledge the kind help of Mr.Gonjari, Borse, Malvadkar, Kadam, Kanase, and others who have help me in various ways. I thank Mr.S.K. Sutar the artist attached to this department, for his assistance in photomicrography. All the artistic beauty of the present thesis is due to him. The excellent typescript of the present thesis was prepared by Mr. R.K. Nikam, who is a very industrious and helpful friend of mine. He has spared no pains in completing the typescript of the thesis.

I must mention my sincere thanks to the authorities of Tuljaram Chaturchand College, Baramati (Pune), Principal Dr.J.K. Godha, for their kind permission to allow me to undertake and complete my research work.

Last but not the least, I must mention my sincere thanks to the authorities of the Shivaji University, Kolhapur for allowing me to work in the University Department of Zoology and providing all the facilities for my work.

( A. J. Alandkar )

Date : 30/4/1984

Department of Zoology, Shivaji University, Kolhapur-416 004. (Maharashtra), INDIA.