

Acknowledgement

I am deeply indebted to Dr. G.P. Bhawane, Prof & Head, Department of Zoology, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, my research guide for suggesting this problem for my research work and the guidance given to me throughout the course of this work and providing me the necessary facilities. The simple word of thanks is very short for the inspiring guidance, constructive criticism and valuable suggestions & constant encouragement during the entire tenure of my research programme.

My special thanks to Dr. S.M. Gaikwad, lecturer, Bhogavati College, Kurukuli for his timely help and constant co-operation during the practical work & microphotography. Also I can't forget to thank him for the critical reading of the manuscript of my thesis.

I wish to express my thanks to my friend Kavita Mole and Avinash Kengar for their generous help and encouragement to face the disappointment during the work and release the tension.

I am thankful to my research colleagues, Y.S. Muniv, J.A Chavan, Y.B Gaikwad, A.B Mamlayya, V. J. Kumbhar, Y. B. Koli & S.R. Aland for their kind help and co-operation in every aspect throughout this work.

I express my sincere thanks to Gopinath Teggi & S.R.Aland for their tireless efforts in plate making.

I, thank Head, USIC, CFC department and his staff & staff of University Library for availing me the facilities during the course of research work.

I am extremely thankful to the non – teaching staff of Zoology Department, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, for their valuable assistance during the period of research.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to my mother Mrs. Ratna. Bibhishan. Sarwade who always supported me in my every decision & helped me to complete it.

Lastly I cannot forget my sisters Nilima. B. Sarwade & Usha. B. Sarwade for their support and help during the research work.

Miss. Asha.B. Sarwade