ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I am indebted to Dr V.V.Modi for guidance throughout the progress of this investigation. The earlier stages of this investigation were supported by a research grant PL-480/FG-In-276 from the Agricultural Research Service of the U.S.Department of Agriculture.

I am grateful to the council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi, for the award of a junior research fellowship to me during the later stages of this investigation.

It gives me great pleasure to thank Dr A.K.Mattoo and Dr R.Ghai for their assistance given during the preparation of this thesis.

G.Ghai