

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is my pleasure to express my deep sense of gratitude to Prof. A.V. Ramachandran for the invaluable guidance, encouragement apart from the many hours spent with me for the completion of this thesis.

I am thankful to Prof. Bonny Pilo, Head, Department of Zoology for providing facilities for carrying out the present study.

I am also thankful to Dr. (Miss) M. V. Asnani, Reader in zoology, for her invaluable help in carrying out the work for the present study.

My special thanks are due to Mr. Suresh B., Mr. Gangadharn, Miss Nancy, Miss Harsha A, Miss Anju.K, Mr Dandekar D.S. and Mr Shital P for their valuable help during the course of my work.

I also thank all my teachers and colleagues, Miss Bhakti (Consol Computers) and also members of non-teaching staff for the help rendered to me in one way or the other.