

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For the successful completion of my research work I am grateful to the Almighty God, whose blessing was always there throughout my life.

This investigation was carried out in the Dept. of Botany, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Gujarat, India, with financial assistance from ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relationship).

It is a great privilege and pleasure to acknowledge my Guide Prof. G. Prathapasanen, Head, Dept. of Botany, M S. University, Baroda, for his guidance, inspiration, encouragement and leaving me all freedom during this course of studies.

I am thankful to Prof. Y T. Jasrai and Dr. Arun Arya, Dept. of Botany and Prof. Bony Pilo, Dept. of Zoology, for providing me necessary laboratory facilities.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to my senior Dr. Remakanthan A. for his unstinted encouragement, inspiring guidance, scientific suggestions and constant support throughout the course of studies, which are mainly instrumental for the successful completion of this investigation. I regard myself very fortunate to get timely help from him. All the statistical analysis, of the data were kindly done by him.

I sincerely thank Dr. Mrs. Susy Albert, for her constant help throughout the anatomical studies.

I also thank Dr. Mamunur Rashid, Ex. Director, BARI (Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute) for kindly providing me certified seed potatoes for the present study.

I must acknowledge Dr. S.M. Paul Khurana, Project Director, CPRI, Shimla for giving me all facilities and kind advice during my visit to CPRI, Shimla. My sincere thanks go to Dr. Ramesh Chandra, Dr. Debabrata Sarkar and Dr. P.S. Naik, for their valuable advice.

I am thankful to my friend Shilpa, research scholar, Dept. of Zoology, for helping me in the photo-micrography.

I owe my debt to Jigar Shah for helping me during plate making.

My special thanks to Dr. S.R. Deshpande, Dr. Pradeepkumar, Dr. Jitendra and Dr. Tanusree for their kind help and advice.

My thanks are also to my friends Dr. Anju John, Mrs. Mini M. George, Aparna De, Jyoti, Nandini, Victoria, Nipun, Rohit, Bivek, Neha, Tania, Sophia, Dinakumari and all others, for their continuous moral support and timely help.

My sincere thanks also go to Mr. Ravi Dindrokar and Mr. Nilesh Patel for photography and Mr. Buch for the neat typing of the manuscript.

I pay my affectionate tributes to my parents. Their constant encouragement and inspiration were the prime source of success of this course.

*Rebeka Sultana*

– REBEKA SULTANA