

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Words would never suffice to express my thanks and deep sense of gratitude towards my guide, Prof. Bonny Pilo, Dean Faculty of Science, and Professor of Zoology, Former Head of Zoology Department, M.S. University of Baroda, for his guidance, timely suggestions, very personal assistance and the freedom he kindly granted me to think and execute the work. I regard myself fortunate to be educated by him.

I am thankful to Prof. A.V.Ramchandran, Head, Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science M.S.University of Baroda, for the facilities provided.

It is a privilege to acknowledge my teacher P.J.Patel for his encouragement.

I am thankful to all the teaching and non-teaching staff of Zoology Department for their various help.

I am thankful to Doctors and Staff of Shri Sayajirao General Hospital and Bhailal Amin General Hospital for their help and co-operation during my visits.

I express my deep thanks to Dr. Harsukh Toprani and his staff for their help.

I would also like to thank Shri Ujwal Bhatt of Yash laboratory for his co-operation.

I am particularly grateful to Dr. Suresh B for his constant help, encouragement and valuable suggestions throughout my work.

My senior Dr. Saji Oommen, deserves a word of gratitude for his help.

I am thankful to my colleagues Ami, Nancy, Veena, Jai, Manju and Pradeep for their cooperation.

I am thankful to M.S. University of Baroda, Research Scholarship for the financial assistance.

I am greatly indebted towards my father-in-law and mother-in-law, for the love affection and constant co-operation and support throughout my work.

I am indebted to my parents, my brother Amol, sister Anagha, who during the years of my study furnished constant encouragement which strengthened me over the years. Any attempt to thank them may inevitably fall short.

I would never forget my grand parents for their love.

I would also like to thank Manisha, my friend and all my relatives.

And last but not least, I wish to express my sincere thanks to all the patients who will probably never know their pivotal role in making this work a success.

ANJALI RAJIV JOSHI