ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to Professor Atul Mehta, Department of Botany, M. S. University of Baroda, Baroda, for making the present research endeavour possible. I am also grateful to him for his guidance and suggestions given during the course of this work.

Grateful acknowledgement is also made to Prof. C.H.Pathak, Head, Department of Botany for providing adequate laboratory facilities.

I am deeply indebted to my senior colleagues : Dr. (Late) V. P. Fadia, Dr. (Mrs.) M.A. Padhya and Dr. P. H. Bhatt for their help and encouragement during the course of this study.

Thanks are due to Miss Shailaja Rao, Mr. G.A.Ravishankar and P.B.K. Kishore for their time to time suggestions. Messers V. Thomas, C. E. Muralidhar, G. R. Nambiar and Kuldeep Bhan deserve thanks for help in proof reading the thesis.

I must make special reference here to my friend Mr. Subash Razdhan, without whose help in the preparation of line drawings, I would have finished the present endeavour much behind schedule. Thanks are also due to Shri Pran Dhar, who has been a stimulant and a great support.

I wish to express my gratitude to my parents and my wife without whose fortitude this work would have never been completed.

I wish to thank Mr. P. T. Dindorkar for his assistance in photography. Thanks are due to Mr. P.S.Bhoite for typing this manuscript.

Grateful acknowledgement is made to University Grants Commission, New Delhi, for providing financial assistance during part of the course of this work.

Shuban Kishen Rawal