

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the very outset, I express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to my supervisor Prof. P. P. Baruah, Department of Botany, Gauhati University, for his esteemed guidance, encouragement, constructive criticisms and helpful suggestions during the whole period of the study.

I am thankful to Prof. N. Devi, Head, Department of Botany, Gauhati University, for her kind help and permission in performing my research work in the department. I am also grateful to Dr. D. K. Jha, Dr. B. Tanti, Dr. K. Tayung, Dr. N. Nath, Dr. D. Narzary, Dr. H. Deka, Dr. N. Agarwala, Dr. N. Bhattacharjee, Dr. S. J. Borah, Dr. A. Ghosh, Mr. J. Rabha and Mr. T. Phukan the faculty members of Department of Botany, Gauhati University for their constant encouragement during the course of this research work. I am glad about the non-teaching staff for assisting me during my present work in the department.

I am thankful to the authorities and staff members of K.K. Handique Library, Gauhati University for providing me facilities for study.

I express my heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Dhrubajyoti Bordoloi and my fellow researchers in the department Arjun Adhikari, Kiran Gupta, Hunmili Teronpi, Jyotishmita Dutta, Debahooti Baruah, Soumin Nath, Himamani Kalita and Trideep Chetia for their constructive ideas, support and lending a helping hand in need. I tend to bestow my heartiest gratitude and thanks to Lakhya Medhi for his constant support, help and inspiration during the period of this research. I also offer my gratitude to my hostel mates Ankita, Tanvi, Sukanya and Mrigakshi for their love and support during the period.

I also express my gratitude towards my supervisor's wife Mrs. Poroshmoni Baruah and their children Epahi and Niyor for their support and hospitality during this period.

It is my privilege to acknowledge the support, love, inspiration and corporation that I have received from my father Mr. Jaharlal Baruah, mother Mrs. Kalpana Baruah and brother Sourav Jyoti Baruah. I offer my sincere thanks to Abhi Baruah, Monalisa C. Baruah, Mithun and Nandita Bhattacharyya, Mr. Kula Medhi, Mrs. Hemi Bora and all my well-wishers for their blessings and good wishes.

Bibha Baruah.