

9. Acknowledgements

I express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Ananda Mukhopadhyay, FZS (Cal.), Professor, Department of Zoology and Former Director, Centre for Life Sciences, University of North Bengal, under whose guidance the work was carried out. I have been inspired by his diligence, his attention to detail and energetic application to any problem and for his invaluable tutelage, constant encouragement, and sustained interest throughout this scientific study.

I would like to extend my wholehearted appreciation to Dr. D.C. Deb, Professor, Department of Zoology, NBU for his generous advice in my research work. I am also grateful to Prof. J. Pal, Head, Deptt. of Zoology, Prof. A.K. Chakravarty, Prof. T.K. Choudhuri, Dr. S. Barat and Dr. M. Bahadur for providing laboratory facilities and invaluable counseling.

My heart-felt thanks are due to Dr. G.T. Gujar, Head, Division of Entomology, Dr. V.V. Ramamurthy, Dr. A. Phokela, Dr. D. Dey and Dr. B. Paul of the same division IARI, New Delhi and Dr. K.R. Kranthi, CCRI, Nagpur for their bountiful help of literature and encouragement.

I am also extremely grateful to Dr. S. Sannigrahi, Tea Research Association, Dibrugarh, Dr. S.K. Pathak, TRA, Dikom, Assam and Dr. S.E. Kabir, tea expert for providing me with literatures and timely information on the occurrence of the pests under my study. I extend my thankfulness to the Managers and Assistant Managers of the tea estates, to name some of them are: Singell Tea and Agricultural Industries limited, Goodricke Group limited, Seeyok T.E. of Darjeeling hills; Kamalpur T.E., Atal T.E., Azamabad T.E., Dagapur T.E. of Terai, and Debpara, Dalgaon T.E., Nangdala T.E. of the Dooars for giving me the opportunity to visit their gardens for research study.

I sincerely acknowledge the Vice-Chancellor, and University authority for providing the valuable online e-journals through Local Area Network, VSAT and UGC-INFONET Consortium.

I wish to express my thanks to all of my colleagues of the Post Graduate Diploma in Tea Management, Institute of Plantation Science and Management, University of North Bengal, and Dr. U. Gupta, Sr. Scientist, Spices Board, Gangtok, Sikkim for his encouragement about this study.

I am also thankful to my friends specially, Ms. S. Das, Ms. D. De, Mr. S. Roy of Entomology Research Unit and Mr. S. Bagchi, Mr. A. Das, Ms. H. Yasmin and Mr. T. Majumder of the Department of Zoology and Dr. S. Dasgupta, Department of Botany for their immense help and cheerful cooperation from time to time. The assistance rendered by Mr. B. Barman, for the field studies are also gratefully acknowledged.

I owe my gratitude to Dr. Kun Yan Zhu, Kansas State University, Manhattan, USA, Dr. William Can-Jen Maa, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C. and Dr. Thomas Van Leeuwen, Ghent University, Belgium and many other workers for their help of valuable literature and suggestion.

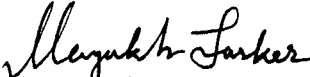
My indebtedness and unfathomable thanks to Mr. B. Banerjee, Chairman, Tea Board, Dr. T.C. Choudhuri, Director, Research and Dr. B. Banerjee, Advisor, National Tea Research Foundation, Tea Board, Kolkata, for their encouragement and providing me the Junior and subsequently Senior Research Fellowship through a project sanctioned to my supervisor, Dr. A. Mukhopadhyay.

I wish to acknowledge the support extended to me by all my family members and my sister, without whose love and patience throughout, this work would not be possible.

Finally, I would like to express my deep indebtedness to my mother and father for their endless inspiration, affection and encouragement that has served as the fuel throughout my work and in appreciation of their love I dedicate this work to their sacred feet.

Date: 29th January 2007

Place: Siliguri


Mayukh Sarker