## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The author wishes to express his deepest sense of gratitude and sincere appreciation to Dr P.K. Sarkar, Senior Lecturer in Botany, University of North Bengal for his constructive criticism, unstinted encouragement, valuable guidance and generous help throughout the investigation and in the preparation of this manuscript.

He is grateful to Prof. K.B. Dutta, Head of the Department of Botany for granting necessary permission to carry out this work.

Gratefully placed on record are the concrete suggestions, valuable advice and untiring technical help given by Ur G.R. Patil, Dr S. Singh, Dr B.N. Mathur and Dr A.A. Patel of National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal during the entire course of investigation. The author wishes to acknowledge the instron facilities extended by Dr R. Nagarcenkar, former Director of NDRI.

The author gratefully acknowledges the constant cooperation and keen interest shown by Sk Aktar Hossain. Without his sincere selfless effort this study could not have been completed. The author thankfully acknowledges the help obtained from his co-fellows Dr J.P. Tamang, Dr B.K. Saha, Ms S. Banerjee and Ms G. Das. The author extends his thanks to Mr R.N. Pradhan, Mr R.C. Raha, Mr D. Sherpa and Mr S.N. Meher who helped in several ways during the course of this study.

He expresses heartfelt appreciation to Mr R. Mutsuddi, former Chief Executive Officer, the Himalayan Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Limited, Darjeeling for granting him necessary permission to carry out investigation.

The author will be failing in his duties in not expressing his thankfulness to M/S PRATILIPI for typing this thesis.

The author owes a lot to his parents, brothers and sisters for their support during the entire course of the present study. Finally, the author is extremely grateful to his wife Ratna for standing by him at all times during the entire Ph. D. work, and above all to his sons Appu and Mampu who with their charming smile made this strenuous effort a great deal easy.

Proclès sam on Cal Pradip Kumar Pal

May 28, 1993