

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I will remain ever grateful to my supervisor Prof. (Dr.) Soumen Bhattacharjee, Professor, Department of Zoology, University of North Bengal, Siliguri. Throughout my tenure, in different phases I always got the spontaneous help from him. I express my gratitude and sincere thankfulness to him for successful completing my dissertation work with his intellectual guidance and constant inspiration.

I would be very thankful to other teachers of the Department, Prof. Ananda Mukhopadhyay, Prof. Tapas Kumar Chaudhuri, Prof. Sudip Barat, Prof. Min Bahadur, Dr. Dhiraj Saha, Mr. Tilak Saha, Dr. Sourav Mukherjee and Dr. Ritwik Mondal of Zoology Department, University of North Bengal, Siliguri for their valuable suggestions during my work.

I would be also thankful to Prof. Arnab Sen of the Botany Department, University of North Bengal, Siliguri for his support and valuable suggestions during my work.

I would be cordially thankful to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Head of the Zoology department, Finance Officer and Registrar for their constant support and co-operation.

I would be also thankful to the nonteaching staffs for their kind cooperation and support during my research work.

I feel very lucky to work with my laboratory colleagues Sutanuka Chattaraj, Uttara Dey Bhowmick, Tanmoy Dutta, Subhashis Paul, Ajoy Paul, Najnin Islam, Debabrata Modak and thankful for their constant support and co-operation. We, the lab mates, also share some beautiful moments and unforgettable sweet and sour memories of our life together.

I am very much thankful to Bappaditya Ghosh, Dr. Kumar Basnet, Swati Singh, Trishita Majumdar, Minu Bharti, Susmita Dutta and Dr. Somit Dutta for their friendly support and necessary help.

I would be thankful to my seniors Dr. Pokhraj Guha, Dr. Priyankar Dey, Dr. Subhrojyoti Roy, Dr. Anjali Prasad, Sangita Khewa, Ritesh Biswa, Binoy Rai, Dawa Bhutia, Dr.

Rudraprasad Roy and Biplab Das whose constant guidance and day to day suggestions help me to complete my work. I also thankful to whom, I really miss a lot in my neighbour laboratory. Not only they share his research experiences but we discuss a lot on different topics day to day.

I would be heartily and especially thankful to Ms. Paromeeta Roy for her help, support and inspiration in every step of my life and work.

I would be especially thankful to my old friend Mr. Avishek Das for his help and support in every step of my work.

I exceptionally thankful to Mr. Tinku Roy for his help and support during my research; and sample collection. Without his help it will be impossible to complete my research work.

I am wholeheartedly thankful to Mr. Biswajit Roy, who was a dedicated non-teaching staff of our department. His accidental demise was a great shock for all of us. I pray May his soul rest in peace.

I like to sincerely acknowledge the UGC-Major Research Project [File No. - 40-289/2011 (SR) dated 29th June, 2011] executed by Prof. Soumen Bhattacharjee as a principal investigator for providing the financial support to carry the research work smoothly.

I would be also thankful to UGC-BSR Meritorious Fellowship for providing me the financial support at the end of my research work to carry out my study smoothly.

Dated:

Tanmay Mukhopadhyay