

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to my family for their encouragement and inspiration which they have unceasingly bestowed on me without which this dissertation would have not taken the present shape.

I am deeply indebted to my research guide Prof. and Principal of Taki Govt. College, Dr. Dipak Ray (Former Professor of Zoology P. G. Department of Zoology, Darjeeling Govt. College, Darjeeling - 734101, West Bengal, India) for suggesting the problem, constant guidance and valuable advice during the entire period of the work.

I am ever grateful to Dr. T. C. Nag, Assistant Professor, Department of Anatomy, All India Institute of Medical Science, New Delhi, for valuable suggestions and encouragement towards this work. I am beholden to Dr. S. k. Das, Dr. W. Henry, Mr. D. Das and Mrs. S. Chhetri of Darjeeling Govt College, for their constant help and encouragement.

I am grateful to Dr. D. Sarkar, former Principal, Darjeeling Govt. College for permitting me to use all the laboratory and library facilities of the college and true encouragement towards this work.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all staffs of Department of Electron Microscopy, All India Institute of Medical Science, New Delhi for providing me Transmission Electron Microscopy facilities and technical advice for sample preparation.

I am grateful to Dr. S. Chakraborty of Central Instrumentation Center of Burdwan University, Burdwan, West Bengal, India, for providing me Scanning

Electron Microscope facilities and technical advice.

I am also grateful to Dr. S. Bandopadhyay of Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata, West Bengal, India, for providing me FACS facilities and technical advice.

I am thankful to Prof. T. Midya of Presidency College for facilities of light microscopy.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Mr. Bikash Bose for photographic works and Mr. Rangan Dawn for computer type setting.

I also wish to thanks Sri C. Chattejee, S. Chakraborty, S. Mukhopadhyay, R. R. Roy, N. Madhu, P. Patra, A. Patra, Mrs. S. Ray, Mrs. J. Mondal, Mrs. N. Mondal and others who generously helped me in making of this thesis. Sincere thanks are due to my maternal uncle Dr. Prasanta Kumar Mondal and Dr. Pranab Kumar Mondal for their sincere support and constant encouragement towards this project.

*Sudipta Patra*  
21/01/2003