

Preface

The present work is an outcome of my five years of research experience that has been carried out from 2012, since I was enrolled as a Ph.D. scholar in the Plant Genetics and Molecular Breeding Laboratory, Department of Botany, University of North Bengal. The study has been carried out by the author in the Department of Botany and Sericulture, Raiganj University, Raiganj, Uttar Dinajpur and being submitted for the partial fulfilment of Ph. D. in Science (Botany) under University of North Bengal, Derjeeling, West Bengal, India. These years have been a challenging journey with ups and downs. It would not have been possible for me to write this thesis without the help and support of the kind people around me. The study clearly describes the ethnobotanical uses, natural habit and habitat and community study of all *Ocimum* taxa available in the district of Dakshin Dinajpur. The diversity analysis was carried out in terms of morphological, chemical and through RAPD. This huge diversity of *Ocimum* taxa motivated me to study the details along with ethnomedicinal study. The final aim of the present study is to find scientific ways for the conservation of native *Ocimum* taxa realising the present state of ecology.

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