

A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

The author is grateful to Dr. D.K. Chakrabarti, Assistant Professor of Zoology, Presidency College, Calcutta, for suggesting the problem and for his assiduous guidance and supervision of this work.

Heartfelt thanks are due to Prof. B. Dasgupta, Principal and Dr. A.K. Roy, Head of the Department of Zoology, Darjeeling Government College, Darjeeling and to Prof. S.K. Dasgupta, Head of the Department of Zoology, Presidency College, Calcutta, for providing laboratory facilities. The writer is ever-indebted to Dr. A.K. Bhaduri, Vidyasagar College, Calcutta for inspiring him in the study of oribatid mites from forest and tea soils in Darjeeling and helping him with his invaluable collection of reprints of publications and also confirming some of the determinations.

Cordial thanks are offered to Dr. S.C. Santra of the Department of Botany, Presidency College, Calcutta for identifying some of the plant species.

It is an agreeable task to express sincere thanks to the staff of Tea Board, Calcutta; Forest Department, Government of West Bengal, Calcutta and Regional Meteorological Centre, Calcutta, for providing valuable data.

Mr. B.G. Kundu, Dr. T.K. Pal, Dr. M. Dutta, Mr. S.B. Roy, Dr. R.N. Tewari, Mr. S. Roy Chowdhury, Mr. D. Sengupta of Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, Mr. Niharendu Das, Mr. Arabinda Mandal, Mr. Sandip Adhikary of Department of Statistics, National Sample Survey Organization, Siliguri, Darjeeling and Dr. G. Roy, Deputy Director of Malaria, Government of West Bengal, Calcutta, Dr. N. Sen, Zonal Officer of Malaria, Government of West Bengal, Siliguri, Darjeeling, are thanked for their manifold assistance.

Heartfelt thanks are also due to Dr. S.B. Mondal, Calcutta, Dr. S.N. Ghosh, Garbeta, Midnapore, Dr. K. Paria, D.T.O., Digri Sanatorium, Midnapore and Dr. M. Mallik, Prof. and Head of the Department of Agriculture, N.M. College of Agriculture, Navsari, Gujrat, for their help and encouragement in this study.

The writer is indebted to Mr. N.C. Dey Sarkar, Calcutta for typing the manuscript.

Finally the writer records his extreme gratefulness to his parents for their constant encouragement throughout the entire period of research.

Barun Kumar Mondal