

Acknowledgements

I am deeply indebted to my supervisors Dr. Jayanta Kumar Kundu, Professor, Department of Zoology, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore, West Bengal and Dr. Sanjukta Mondal (Parui), Associate Professor and Head of the Department, Post Graduate Department of Zoology, Lady Brabourne College, Kolkata, West Bengal for their guidance, suggestions and criticisms during the entire tenure of my research work. My knowledge on the subject has gained correspondingly in value through their constant guidance.

I am especially grateful to my teacher Dr. Amal Kumar Mondal, Professor, Department of Botany and Forestry, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore, West Bengal for his continuous support, motivation and encouragement during the tenure of my research and in particular identification of the species of plants.

I am also grateful to all my teachers of graduation and post graduation level and also the other faculty members of the Department of Zoology, Lady Brabourne College, who have taught me the ABCs of the subject that has given me new insights and new bodies of knowledge which have immensely helped me in achieving my goals.

Special thanks are due to the other non-teaching staff of Department of Zoology, Lady Brabourne College, Kolkata, West Bengal, where this work was done for their immeasurable aid and assistance which has helped me to give my work an unified organization.

I am especially indebted to Prof. R.N Maiti of Central Research Facility, IIT, Khargpur, West Bengal for his unstinted assistance during my work on Scanning Electron Microscopy and to Sophisticated Analytical Instrumentation Facility (SAIF) - AIIMS of New Delhi for their continuous effort and assistance to study the ultrastructure of pollen by TEM. I am also thankful to Xelris Labs Ltd. of Ahmedabad for helping me in deducing the sequence of allergenic proteins by MALDI/TOF.

The exacting task of editing, drawing and printing was accomplished with unfailing grace and good humor of Sri Srimanta Karar. I express my special thanks to him. My special thanks are due to Sri Subhas Das for his immense help during sample collection and conservation.

I am indebted to my parents, husband, brothers and in laws, without whose pleasant co-operation and encouragement it would have been very difficult on my part to complete my work.

Last but not the least, I am indebted to the University Grants Commissions (UGC), New Delhi for their financial support in the form of a UGC Major Project [Project No. F.42-559/2013 (SR), dt. 22.03.13].

Barnali Bera

Barnali Bera