

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It was my dream to complete the Ph.D and to write “Dr.” before my name. After joining the Ph.D programme many peoples helped me in various ways and I was inspired from many with new enthusiasm and energy. At this point, I am extremely happy to acknowledge them. Throughout this journey one person who remained with me is my supervisor Dr. Ashalata Devi. In the very foremost, I would like to offer my deepest gratitude for her abled guidance, patience, inspiration and freedom of work which enabled me to complete the work. Thanks a lot Madam.

I would like to thank Tezpur University authority for providing me the permission to carry out the research work and necessary facilities to pursue my Ph.D.

It was Dr. Gajen Chandra Sarma, former Curator, Dept. of Botany, Gauhati University, who unconditionally helped me like anything. In my taxonomic problems he helped me in every way. I wish to offer my sincere thanks to Sarma Sir. I will remain ever grateful to you sir for your valuable company in the field trips, particularly in Nameri NP.

I wish to offer my sincere thanks to Dr. Nirmali Gogoi and Prof. M. Mandal, for their valuable inputs in the progress of my work as my Doctoral Committee members.

My sincere thanks to Prof. RR Hoque, then HoD, for his contribution towards the NOC. I offer my sincere thanks to Dr. SS Bhattacharya, who helped me a lot in all possible way for the success of my work. I wish to offer my heartfelt thanks to all other faculty members of the department of Environmental Science for

their moral support and inspirations, particularly to Dr. S. Mitra (now at IITG). I am also very thankful to Prof. AK Das for his kind permission to use GIS laboratory and for his inspirations. Special thanks to Dr. RK Sah for his absolute help in the preparation of Maps.

I am very thankful to the Forest Department, Govt. of Assam for providing me the necessary permission to work in Protected Areas (PAs). Special thanks to Sri Narayan Mahanta (then DFO) and Sri P. Sivkumar IFS (present CF) for their kind help. In any kind of taxonomic confusions I used to contact Sri Brahmananda Patiri, DFO, Barpeta. I convey my sincere thanks to him for his valuable help in my work. I am also thankful to the Rangers, Beat Officers and specially the forest guards of different Reserve Forests and PAs of Sonitpur for their kind help in the field work.

Thanks to Sri AK Johari IFS, Member Secretary, Assam State Biodiversity Board for his kind approval to work in PAs. I offer my sincere thanks to Dr. AA Mao, Head, BSI, ERC, Shillong for his kind consent to consult the herbarium (ASSAM). Special thanks to my friend Ms. Nandita Sarma and Dr. DK Roy of BSI, ERC, Shillong for their unconditional help in the herbarium consultation. I am also very thankful to Prof. PP Baruah, Head, Dept. of Botany, Gauhati University for his generous permission to work at herbarium (GUBH).

I thank all the villagers, village heads, and all other persons who provided valuable information's during my several visits to Munda, Garo and Mishing villages. Special thanks to Sri Commission Mili, Sri Binod Sangma and Sri Arjun Munda for their helps in the field survey.

I am thankful to the authority of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Sonitpur for providing me the meteorological data. Special thanks to Ms. Popi Bora for her generous help.

My Ph.D journey was full of hurdles. In the hard situation many peoples offered their helping hands, which enabled me to complete the work. Among them, Sri Madhab Das, Ms. Nayanmoni Pamegum, Dr. Pratibha Sharma is few names to be thanked.

I am highly indebted to my colleagues (Sri Jayanta Bora, Sri Pranjol Goswami and Sri Partha Pratim Basumatary) for their helping hands to conduct smooth functioning of office and research work simultaneously.

I am very thankful to my laboratory mates Mr. Kaustubh Rakshit (now at IITG) and Mr. Bidyut Sarania for their helps in the field work. I extend my thanks to other laboratory mates Ms. Shilpa Baidya and Ms. M. Bidyalakshmi Devi for their inspirations. Special thanks to Mr. Mamun Chandra Das for his kind help in processing herbariums. Thanks to Mr. Dipankar Sarma for his day to day constructive discussion and moral support towards my works.

My Maa (Smt. Basanti Devi) and Baba (Sjt. Jatindra Nath Sarma) are two special person for me. Almost each and every day Baba called me evening and asked about my progress of Ph.D work. Baba's inspiration was my main source of energy. It is only because of Maa and Baba's blessings and prayer I could completed this vigorous task. Along with my parents, I am thankful to my all other family members for their moral supports.

From the very beginning to last moment of this rigorous journey, besides my parents, one who eagerly waited to see me finish my Ph.D in time and prayed for me day in and day out, is my wife Ms. Sadhana Goswami (Asstt. Librarian, GIMT, Tezpur). I take

this opportunity to thank her for all her persistence, care and constructive support. Without her encouragement I would have given up way back but, it was her relentless backing and faith in me that kept me moving forward so that I could write this acknowledgement one day. I am also very much affectionate with the calls of our daughter DORI. After tense full day to day activity, in the evening she refreshed me and prepared me for the next day.

I sincerely acknowledge all those persons, whom I met and interacted with, during the course of Ph.D work. The names that I could not mention in this small space are also as important to me as the mentioned ones are, and I whole heartedly thank each and every one who contributed even in a small way towards the completion of my Ph.D work.

Above all, I thank the almighty for his blessings and for everything he has given to me.

Jintu Sarma