ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I express my deep-felt gratitude to Dr. J.G Ray, my research guide for his constant encouragement and expert guidance throughout the course of my research work. He was highly motivating, enthusiastic and critical during the entire period of the research. Words are not enough to express my indebtedness to him.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Dr. Stephen Mathews, Principal and Prof. James Joseph, Head of the Department of Botany, for their encouragements and also the facilities provided for this research in the Environment Science Research Lab of the Postgraduate Department of Botany, St. Berchmans College, Changanacherry. I am also thankful to all the other teachers of the Departments of Botany for their supports and encouragements during the course of the research.

My sincere appreciation is extended to the Manager, St. Dominic’s College Kanjirapally for allowing me to carry out the research work under the aegis of the Faculty Improvement Programme. I would also like to convey my thanks to the Principal, Dr. Ancykutty Joseph and all my colleagues of the College for the help and guidance they rendered during the pursuit of my academic endeavor.

I would like to place on record my special thanks to Prof V. A. Emmanuel, Head of the Department of Botany, S.D. College Kanjirapally and Dr. Joseph Michael Who have been an abounding source of inspiration to me.

My Sincere appreciation is extended to all those have helped me during the course of my research: Shri. M.C. Jose, S.B. College for help and support in statistical analysis; Dr. Jomy Augustine, St. Thomas College Pala for taxonomical identification of plants; Dr. Chandra Mohan, Department of Chemical Oceanography, CUSAT, Kochi for his help in chemical analysis; Dr. Reghu C.P. RRII Kottayam for arranging permission to avail the library facilities of the Institute; Mr. Raju Varghese and Mr. Murali K.K of M.G University Library for their kind help in getting all the necessary literature; my research colleagues Shri. George K.J., Mr. Roy Y.C. and Mr. Pramod Kumar N. for collecting samples
and nice co-operation; Dr. Roseline T. Mathew and Shri. Joy Joseph, S.D. College and Shri. George Thomas, S.B. College for language correction.

I also express my sincere thanks to Mrs. Mariamma Jacob, spouse of my guide and their children, Rojina and Rojith for all the warmth and love they gave me.

I wish to acknowledge my debt to all members of my family, especially to my beloved wife Anitha, my daughter Neeju and my son Neeraj through their constant prayers and benevolent supports always keep my spirits high.

Teacher fellowship provided by the University Grants Commission, New Delhi under the FIP scheme is also gratefully acknowledged.

Jojo George