Acknowledgment

It is my great privilege to express my high sense of gratitude and indebtedness to Dr. N. Ramanujan, M.Sc., M.Phil., Ph.D., Rtd. Head of the Dept. of Zoology, Sree Narayana College, Kollam for suggesting the problem, for his constant guidance, advice, encouragement, untiring help which has been a source of inspiration at all the stages of the work.

I extend my gratitude and indebtedness to Prof. K.P.Varghese, Head of the Dept. of Zoology, C.M.S. College and Prof. C.A. Abraham, Principal, C.M.S. College, Kottayam for providing necessary facilities to carry out the work successfully.

I am grateful to Dr. N.K. Balasubramaniam, Reader in Biostatistics in the Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, University of Kerala for his help in doing the statistical analysis of the data.

I am thankful to Dr. C.P. Shaji, S.N. College, Varkala for the valuable help in the identification of algae.

I render my heartfelt thanks to Dr. M.V.N. Panikkar, M.Sc., Ph.D., Director of Botany Research Centre, S.N.College, Kollam for his valuable suggestions and sincere help. I wish to thank Dr. K.V. Jayachandran, College of Fisheries, K.A.U., Cochin for his valuable help during the period of the present study.

My very special thanks to Dr. C. Anilkumar for his sincere help and encouragement throughout the period of the study. My sincere thanks to Prof. M.P.K. Roy, St. Gregorius College, Kottarakkara., Dr. Jayasenan, S.N.College, Varkala and Dr. Gero G. Varghese for their help.

I am grateful to M.G. University for awarding J.R.F. during the tenure of my study.

I am indebted to all my family members for their prayers, moral support and encouragement throughout the course of my study.

Sheeba. S.