ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It gives me immense pleasure to express my deep sense of gratitude to my beloved research supervisor Prof. C.G. Prakasa Rao, Department of Botany, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur for his invaluable guidance, constant encouragement, continuous supervision, keen interest, useful suggestions and counsel althrough the course of my research.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. T. Pullaiath, Reader and Head, Department of Botany, Sri Krishnadevaraya University for providing the necessary facilities, and encouragement for carrying out this work.

I am also thankful to Dr.R.R. Venkata Raju, Reader and Dr. C. Sudhakar, Lecturer, Department of Botany for their timely help.

I am also grateful to Prof. C. Manoharachary, Department of Botany, Osmania University, Hyderabad, for his untiring and valuable help which enabled me to confirm the identifications of VA mycorrhizae.

I owe a profound sense of gratitude to Prof. K. Venkateswarlu, Department of Microbiology, for his valuable and timely suggestions which helped me for the successful completion of the work.
I am also thankful to Dr. J. Veeraswamy, and Mrs. T. Padmavathi, Research Scholars, Department of Microbiology, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Mr. P. Ramapulla Reddy and L.R. Goje, Teacher Research Fellows, Department of Botany, Osmania University, Hyderabad for their kind help in various ways.

It gives me great pleasure to place on record my thanks to all my research colleagues who in many other ways ride very significant and constructive contribution. I am very grateful to them for their kind co-operation.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to my beloved friend Mr. G. Umesha, for his affectionate help and moral support although my research work.

My sincere thanks are due to K. Ranganayakulu, RAJESH PHOTOSTAT, for his stoic and neat typing.

Words are inadequate to express my indebtedness to my beloved parents who stimulated academic interest right from my childhood. I deeply beholden to them for their continuous encouragement and moral support. I am also very much grateful to my brothers and sisters without whose affection and cooperation this piece of work would have not been completed successfully.

M. HANUMANTHA GOWDA