Acknowledgement

I express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Krishna Swamy K. Associate Professor and Chairman, Department of Botany, Sahyadri Science College (Autonomous), Shivamogga for his valuable guidance in completion of the my research work. His suggestion, pertinent discussions and critical comments were of great value in carrying out the present work. I am deeply grateful to him for his moral support, advice and encouragement.

It is my great pleasure to thank Prof. B.R. Siddaramappa, Principal, Sahyadri Science College (Autonomous), Shivamogga and Dr. H.C. Veerappa Gowda, Principal, Sri Jagadguru Chandrashekhara Bharathi Memorial (Sri JCBM) College, Sringeri for their constant encouragement and support.

I wish to express my gratitude to Dr. Magadi R. Gurudeva, Associate Professor, Department of Botany, V.V. Puram Science College, Bengaluru, Dr. K.M. Prashanth, Lecturer, Department of Botany, Sahyadri Science College (Autonomous), Shivamogga, Mr. K.S. Vinayaka, Research Scholar, Department of Applied Botany, Kuvempu University, Shankaraghatta, Dr. C.V. Giridhara Shastry, Lecturer in Sanskrit & English, Sri JCBM College, Sringeri for their kind concern, help and encouragement to carry out this research work.

I sincerely thank the Chairman, Professors, Research Scholars and all the Faculty Members of Department of Applied Botany, Kuvempu University, Shankaraghatta for their support and encouragement in completion of this work.

I am indebted to Mr. S. Aravinda, Scientist, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru for his kind help in taking Scanning Electron Microscopic photographs of orchid seeds.
I record my affectionate thanks to Ms. N.C. Anusha, Student, Sri JCBM College, Sringeri and Mr. N.R. Santhosh, Research Fellow, Department of Botany, Sahyadri Science College (Autonomous), Shivamogga for their help during the field work.

I must remember with gratitude my beloved parents Sri. Shankar Narayan Udupa, Smt. Nagalakshmi, wife Smt. Lasyapriya, lovely son Skanda and all my family members, who were a source of great inspiration throughout the tenure of this research.

I immensely thank Mr. Prakash, Ganesh Xerox centre, Sringeri and Mis. Sudha & Mr.Dinesh, SGS Computers, Shankaraghatta for excellent type settings and printing of the thesis and their cooperation right through the period of research.

Kumaraswamy Udupa E.S.