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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this dissertation titled "STUDIES ON THE BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY OF A THERMOPHILIC XYLOSE ISOMERASE IN *Cereus pterogonus* AND *Opuntia vulgaris*" being submitted for the award of the degree of **Doctor of Philosophy in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology** is a record of research work done by **S. RAVI KUMAR, M.Sc.**, during the period of his study under my guidance at the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Pondicherry University, Kalapet, Puducherry – 605 014 and that this dissertation has not formed the basis for the award to the candidate of any other Degree or Diploma or any similar title of any other university.

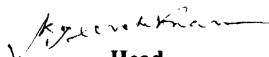
I further certify that this dissertation represents the independent work of the candidate.

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