

## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work presented in 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 the work carried out under the supervision of **Dr. K. Srikumar**, Reader in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, School of Life Sciences, Pondicherry University, Kalapet, Puducherry – 605 014 and that this dissertation has not formed the basis for the award of any other Degree or Diploma or any similar title of any other university.

Puducherry  
Date: 30.07.2007

  
**S. RAVI KUMAR**  
Research Scholar