Acknowledgements

I wish to express my gratitude to Prof. M.N.V. Prasad, my mentor for suggesting this fascinating research topic, guidance and academic inputs which propelled enthusiasm in me to complete this work successfully.

I am thankful to Prof. M. Ramanadham, Head, and Dept. of Biochemistry for permission to use cell culture facility and helpful suggestions.

I am thankful to Prof. P. Appa Rao, Head, Department of Plant Sciences; former Heads of the Department of Plant Sciences viz., Prof. P.B. Kirti and Prof. M.N.V. Prasad for administrative support and common research facilities in the department which contributed substantially for my research progress.

My sincere thanks to Prof. A.S. Raghavendra, Dean, School of Life Sciences; Prof. T. Suryanarayana, former Dean for all administrative support and common research facilities of the School.

I wish to express my thanks to Prof. M. Periasami, Dean School of Chemistry for permission to use instrumentation. I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to Prof. Aparna Datta Gupta, formerly Head, Dept. of Animal Sciences for permission to use HPLC and Flow Cytometer.

I owe my sincere thanks to Prof. P. Reddana, Prof. K.V.A Ramaiah and Dr. Ch. Venkata Ramana for useful discussion and help during the course of my research work. I extend my sincere thanks to Prof. Abani Bhuyan, School of Chemistry for suggestions.
My special thanks to all my colleagues in the lab namely Drs K. Padma Latha, K. Jayaram, N.L. Raju, N. Nirupa, P. Aravind; Ms. Saritha V. Kuriakose and Mr Maruhia for helping me failing which it would not be possible to accomplish this task.

Thanks are due to Dr M.B.K. Prasad, Lecturer, Special Centre for Integrated Studies, Univ. of Hyderabad and B.Naveen for helping me in the preparation of draft manuscript. I wish to acknowledge Prof.V.S. Raju, Dept. of Botany, Kakatiya University, Warangal and Dr. Surayanarayana (Venkatagiri Degree college, Nellore) for suggestions and providing useful information on the taxonomy and nomenclature of the material investigated.

I would like to thank all the CIL staff, COSIST Lab, Ruska Lab at ANGARU; Chief conservator of Forests A.P. and several forest range officers. I am grateful to all the administrative staff of the School for guidance and assistance during my research work.

I would like to thank P. Ramamurthy (retired M.D.O of Rapur, Veligonda range) who helped me in getting the permission letters and also made necessary arrangements for field work in forests at Rapur Veligonda range. I am very indebted to local tribes for extending all support in field work in deep forests.

Special thanks to my good friend Mr. R.Roy, Nageswari, Sirisha, Roda for helping me in cell culture work. I am thankful to several of my close friends Drs. Hafiz, Hari, Rajsekhar, G. Pavankumar, G.V. Reddy; Hussain, Dheeraj and Ramprasad. I am extremely thankful to all scholars for help and cooperation. I am thankful to my teachers D. Joshua Babu, Prof. Joel Christopher for encouragement.
I am thankful to all the research scholars (Batch mates, seniors and juniors) of the school of Life Sciences for their timely help. I profoundly and sincerely thank all my friends, here and elsewhere, who have been a constant source of support and encouragement. In addition to my Science family, I have a bunch of crazy friends, whose friendship I cherished. I feel they are my backbone. Each one justifies their personality, Arun, Vasan, Harish, Praveen, Jami, Dharma, Tiger Nagaraju, Sagga, Steven, Mega, Masuam and Bheem.

I appreciate the help received from Messers E.V. Anand Kumar, P. Satish, M. Ellaiah, P. Eshwariah and P. Bhanuchander in lab/field work.

Part of the work was carried out with the stipend from UGC-UPE program of the University and as project assistant in the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, New Delhi sponsored project (to Prof M.N.V. Prasad, ref. BT/ PR2273/PBD/17/117/2000 dot. 7-9-01) which I gratefully acknowledge. Thanks are also due to DST-FIST, UGC-DRS for infrastructural facilities. I am deeply obliged to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Andhra Pradesh, India for permission to collect research samples of medicinal plants from various forest divisions (Arc No. 15698/02/U2.dt.29-10-2002). I also thank all the Divisional forest officers and Forest officers who have extended their cooperation to the maximum extent during field visits. Financial support from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India (ref No.10/03/2003-CS/ BG dot. 8.2.2005, to Prof. M.N.V. Prasad) is gratefully acknowledged which prolonged conservation and strengthening of my precious research material.

My special thanks to Tillu family (Sathya, tillu’jr, Aunt and Uncle) Sekhar and hafiz family. I profoundly acknowledge some of my close family members, Babu, Vani,
Jagadish, Kiran, Josthna, Lakshminarayana, Sudha, Raji, Sarala, Nageswara rao, Hari, Nanda, Venkatnarayana and Raja for their love, support and encouragement. Above all I have no words to express my indebtedness to my beloved parents. Without their constant love, encouragement, patience, sacrifice, inspiration and above all for the freedom given to me, it would have been impossible for me to be where I am now. I really gave them tough time choosing a career in science. Their prayer at every stage has helped me to move forward by overcoming all the difficulties. I express my gratefulness by dedicating this work as a mark of respect and high esteem to my ever-loved parents. I sincerely acknowledge my younger brother for supporting me with the financial assistance and taking care of family responsibilities in my absence. It would have been impossible for me to finish without their support. I also thank Raja swami for his blessings.

Finally, I thank The Almighty for the showers of blessings during the hours of trials throughout my life. Last but not the least, “my stay is memorable in this beautiful campus of our University”

Hyderabad, June 2007

Pasupuleti Sreenivasa Rao