ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

At the outset, I would like to express my deep gratitude to my research supervisor, Prof. P. Sreenivasulu for his able guidance, regular discussions, thought provoking criticism and providing me all freedom in conducting the experiments throughout the period of the study. I am highly indebted for his support, encouragement and careful reading and correction of the thesis manuscript.

I am highly thankful to Dr. P. Lava Kumar, Scientist, Virology Laboratory, the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Patancheru, A.P. for permitting me to utilize his laboratory facilities to carry certain experiments of my thesis. He has always given me every freedom in utilizing his lab facilities. It was certainly an amazing experience working with him for his close supervision, regular advice and readiness to share his expertise.

I am also very grateful to Prof. H.S. Savithri, Department of Biochemistry, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore for her intermittent discussions during the period of my thesis work.

I thank Dr. D.V.R. Sai Gopal, Head, Department of Virology for his co-operation in the successful completion of my study. I profusely thank Dr. K. Gopinath, Dr. M. Hema and Dr. M. Venkatramana for their useful discussions and suggestions. Thanks are due to Dr. G. Sekhar, Principal Scientist, Regional Agricultural Research Station of ANGRAU, Perumallapalle, Tirupati and Mr. V. Pratap Reddy, Sagar Sugars for providing mosaic disease affected sugarcane samples and to Dr. Kishore, Department of Botany for helpful discussions on tissue culture experiments.

I am indebted to my senior Dr. M. Sreenivasulu and colleagues in the Department, Padmavathi, Ramesh, Srinivas, Anthony Johnson, Nareah, Siva Prasad for their help, useful discussions and for providing joyous company throughout the period of my stay in the Department. My special thanks to Mr. K. Venkatrama Raju and his family for their care and concern throughout the duration of my stay in the Virology Department. I am thankful to Mr. P. Purushotham for his assistance in the keeping up of experimental plants.

I am very much indebted to my friends and well wishers Dr. T. Nagaraja, K. Simon Moses, D. Sreenivasulu (budda), B. Sreeramula Naik, M. Janardhan Reddy, N. Chittibabu, P. Bhaskar Reddy who are constant source of courage.
I am very much thankful to Siva Prasad, Sridhar, Sekhar, Geetha and Anitha for their warm friendship and company that made my stay memorable at ICRISAT. I am grateful to Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India for providing financial assistance. At last I thank every one who directly or indirectly helped me in the successful completion of the thesis work.

(CH. V. SUBBA REDDY)