Acknowledgements

First and foremost, praise and endless thanks goes to my savior Jesus Christ for all the blessings he has showered onto me, which has enabled me to write this last note in my research work. Most specially, thank you for sending your angels when I needed them the Most.

It gives pleasure to express my deep sense of gratitude to my research supervisor Prof. P. Sreenivasula Reddy, for his professional supervision, obliging suggestions and affable endorsement, the most admirable and amiable supervisor. Each meeting with him added invaluable aspects to the implementation and broadened my perspective. He has guided me with his invaluable suggestions, lightened up the way in my darkest times and encouraged me a lot in the academic life. I acknowledge his dynamic celebrity and genial thinking were always a source of incentive in all the phases of experimentation and decisive analysis.

I am obliged to express my deep sense of gratitude to my senior research scholar and brother Dr. S.B. Sainath, Assistant professor, Department of Biotechnology, Vikrama Simhapuri University, SPSR Nellore, for his constant encouragement at every stage, valuable suggestions, academic and moral help during my work when ever need.

I am thankful to Prof. Ch. Appa Rao, Head, Department of Biotechnology who has been encouraged me to complete this work.

I am also thankful to Prof. M. Bhaskar, Head, Department of Zoology, S.V University, Tirupati, for providing necessary laboratory facilities and encouragement.

I owe a lot to Prof. N. Sukumar, Department of English, S.V. University, Tirupati, for his valuable assistance in editing this thesis.

I extend my sincere thanks to all the Faculty members, Department of Biotechnology and Zoology, S.V. University, Tirupati, for their constant encouragement, evaluation of this work and for their invaluable comments and feedbacks.

I am forever indebted to my beloved spiritual friends CH. Helen Mary, K. Jhansi Rani, CH. Swarupa, P.V. Priya, N. Ruth Mary, P. Joyce Mary, K. Kamala, N. Deepthi, D.
*Anitha, A. Lalitha, V. Subhashini, P. Nageswari, M. Sulochana and Lebonah* for all their prayers, support, constant love, and encouragement which are helped me to develop academically as well as personally.

I should thank my dear friends and colleagues *P. Radha, G. Sowjenya, M. Reshma Anjum, R. Meena, P. Haripriya, M. Sreelatha, CH. Swetha, B. Akhila, N. Anitha, G. Sirisha, K.C. Maheswari, P. Madhu, K. Pratap Reddy, B.P. Girish, A. Uday Pravin, K.M. Raja, B. Bhavanarayana, N. Giri Babu, CH.V. Suneel, S.L. Narasaiah and S. Sasi Kumar* without them completion of this work would not have been possible by their important contributions and support throughout my doctoral thesis work.

I would like to thank all the Non-teaching staff of the Department of Biotechnology and Zoology *S. Umasankar, M. Balaji, P. Harinath Reddy, B.S. Naik, A. Rajanna and B. Usharani* for their help, cooperation and technical assistance throughout my research work.

I am also grateful to *Prof. Galia Peri*, Scientist, Fermentek Ltd, Jerusalem, Israel, for providing Aflatoxin B1 to my research work.

I want to thank and acknowledge the help of *P. Subba Reddy* for providing chemicals and equipment throughout my research work.

I extended my special thanks to *UGC, New Delhi* for providing me with Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship.

At last, when I think of my parents, Smt. CH. Chiranjeevamma and Sri. CH. Ramanaiah, My sister CH. Sri Priya, My brother CH. Sandeesh, My uncle P. Samson and My spiritual parents Smt. Hilda and Sri. Dyva Prasad, my joy and gratitude find no bounds for what they have sacrificed for me. This piece of work could see the light of day only due to their stoical attitude, inspiration, perseverance, encouragement, and keenness in the form of their affection. To thank them in words is belittling their efforts but while acknowledging other names can never stand before them.