ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I have no words to express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to Dr. G.R. Shivamurthy, Professor, Department of Studies in Botany, Manasagangotri, University of Mysore, Mysore, for guiding me during this study. He has been a caring and understanding person and supported me whole heartedly throughout my student days. He has never held back in helping me at any stage during the course of the study. His conviction and understanding of the subject has never failed to impress me.

I am thankful to, The Chairman, Department of Studies in Botany, Manasagangotri, University of Mysore, Mysore, and the rest of the teaching and non teaching staff for the help and encouragement rendered in numerous ways.

My special thanks are due to Dr. C. R. Vijay, Associate Professor, Maharani’s Science College for Women, Mysore, for his help and cooperation during this study. I am grateful for his encouragement and valuable suggestions. My sincere thanks to him for patiently teaching me to use Photoshop software without which the compilation of thesis would not have been possible. I also thank him for the time he has spent in reading the proof of this thesis.

My deep and sincere thanks to Ms. M. C. Thriveni, Research Scholar, Department of Studies in Botany, University of Mysore, Mysore, for the immense support she has been during the compilation of the thesis. She has graciously and unstintingly worked towards bringing out the thesis in the present form. Her help in editing, proof reading and support during my stay in the department is gratefully acknowledged.

I would especially like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. M. S. Sudarshana, Reader, Department of Studies in Botany, University of
Mysore, Mysore, for providing unrestricted access to his laboratory facilities which greatly helped me in my work. I also wish to thank Dr. Shobha Jagannath, Reader, Department of Studies in Botany, University of Mysore, Mysore, for use of the fluorescent microscope and her cooperation during the course of this work. My thanks are also due to Dr. K. N. Amruthesh, Lecturer, Department of Studies in Botany, University of Mysore, Mysore, for his help in numerous ways. He has been a great source of support and encouragement during my stay at the department.

My thanks are due to Prof. P.V. Madhusoodanan Dept. of Botany, Calicut University, Calicut, Kerala, and Dr. A. K. Pradeep, Curator, Dept. of Botany, Calicut University, Calicut, Kerala, for locating and helping in collection of one of the taxa of this study. Their hospitality during my visit to Calicut is incomparable and unforgettable.

I would be failing in my duty if I do not extend my sincere thanks to Sri. K. B. Sadananda. His help in locating the parasites of the present study is gratefully acknowledged. I also thank Prof. K. Gopalakrishna Bhat, Professor (Retd.), Poornaprajna College, Udupi who accompanied me to different places during my plant collection trip to Udupi and Manipal.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. T. N. Manohara who accompanied me on various field trips and helped me during the course of this study. He has helped me in standardizing laboratory techniques by giving valuable suggestions.

My sincere thanks are due to Dr. L. Rajanna, Reader in Botany, Bangalore University, Bangalore, for his help in procuring critical chemicals required for this study.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. J. Nagarathna of the Department of Studies in Botany, University of
Mysore, Mysore. She was ever willing and ready to teach me numerous aspects involved in D.T.P.

Last but not least, I thank my husband G. P. Satish for his unconditional support in everything I undertake, not least this work. I thank him for the numerous ways in which he has stood by me. My parents, their dreams and love for me have been the inspiration for me to carry on with my studies. I thank my sisters and my parents-in-law for their encouragement. My children, Nischith and Nishanth by just being themselves are a source of joy and inspiration for me. Without their cooperation this work would not be possible. I thank all of them for their love and support.

G. R. Kavitha