ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to sincerely record my deepest gratitude and thanks to
Dr. T. SELVARAJ, Reader in Botany, A.V.V.M. Sri Pushpam College (Autonomous), Poondi for his valuable guidance with enthusiastic encouragement.

I am deeply indebted to

Dr. C. Lakshminarasimhan, Professor and Head, Department of Botany, A.V.V.M. Sri Pushpam College, (Autonomous), Poondi for throwing open the facilities of the department entirely at my disposal.

Thiru. K. Thulasiah Vandayar, Secretary and Correspondent, A.V.V.M. Sri Pushpam College (Autonomous), Poondi and Thiru. N. Meiporul, Principal, A.V.V.M. Sri Pushpam College (Autonomous), Poondi for providing me the necessary facilities and encouragement during the period of my work.

Dr. K. Kannan, Reader in Botany, A.V.V.M. Sri Pushpam College (Autonomous), Poondi for his encouragement and a constant help in the successful completion of this work.

Dr. S. Jeyachandran, Reader in Botany, A.V.V.M. Sri Pushpam College (Autonomous), Poondi for his valuable artistic ideas and encouragement.

Mr. J. Sureshkumar, Research scholar, Department of Siddha Medicine, Tamil University, Thanjavur for his enthusiastic participation and co-operation during the period of my work and
Mr. S. Kumaresan, Research Associate, CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, for his valuable help in preparatory work.

My special thanks are due to

Dr. C. Walker, Forestry Commission, Northern Research Station, Roslin, Midlothian, EH25 9SY, United Kingdom, for identifying the VAM fungal species photographs.

Mr. Lawrence Rajarajan, Teacher, C.S.I. Higher Secondary School, Nagapattinam, for his help in photography.

Research scholars, all teaching and non-teaching staff, Department of Botany, A.V.V.M. Sri Pushpam College (Autonomous), Poondi and all my friends for helping me in all possible ways and to Miss. S. Vimala, Karthik Computers, Thanjavur for her excellent typography.