ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This thesis is the end of my journey in obtaining my Ph.D. I have not travelled in a vacuum in this journey. This thesis has been kept on track and been seen through to completion with the support and encouragement of numerous people including my well wishers, my friends, colleagues and scientists of various institutions. At the end of my thesis, it is a pleasant task to express my thanks to all those who contributed in many ways to the success of this study and made it an unforgettable experience for me.

First of all I thank Almighty God, who has been with me and showered his blessings and his kind grace on me all through the years.

Foremost I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to my guide and supervisor Dr. K. Sahayaraj, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai for the continuous support of my Ph.D study and research. He motivated and moulded me in many ways to be a researcher. His guidance helped me in gaining knowledge in the vast areas in due course of my research period. I have been extremely lucky to have a guide who cared so much about my work, and who responded to my questions and queries so promptly.

My special words of thanks should also go to my research co-guide Dr. J. Martin Rathí, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, St. Mary’s College, Thoothukudi for her continuous support, guidance, cooperation, encouragement and providing valuable suggestions to accomplish my research work.

I take this opportunity to sincerely acknowledge the Ministry of Earth Science (MoES), Government of India, New Delhi, for providing financial assistance in the form of Junior and Senior Research Fellowship which buttressed me to perform my work comfortably.
I would like to thank the Principals, Rev. Dr. Alphonse Manickam, S. J. (former), Rev. Dr. A. Joseph, S.J. (Present), Secretaries, Rev. Fr. Arockiasamy, S. J. (Present), Rev. Dr. Louis Xavier, S. J. and Rev. Dr. D. Selvanayagam, S. J. (Former) and Rector Rev. Fr. Britto Vincent, S. J. St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai for providing me sufficient institutional and laboratory facilities.

I am grateful to Dr. T. A. Sethuramalingam, Head of the Department of Zoology, St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai and all the staff members of the Department for their kind help and support for my research work.

I would like to thank my senior research scholars of CPRC who helped, guided and encouraged me in my research work – Dr. P. Gabriel Paulraj, Scientist, Entomology Research Institute, Loyola College (Autonomous), Chennai; Dr. P. Selvaraj, Assistant Professor, St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai; Dr. C. Ravi, Assistant Professor, Thiagarajar College, Madurai; Dr. G. Raju, Assistant Professor, Pioneer Kumarasamy College, Nagercoil; Dr. S. Karthick Raja Namasivayam, Assistant Professor, Sathya Bama Deemed University, Chennai; Dr. S. Jeya Parvathi, Assistant Professor, Ayya Nadar Janaki Ammal College, Sivakasi; Dr. R. Balasubramanian, Scientist B, National Institute of Virology Kerela Unit, Azhappuzha; Dr. S. Sujatha, Assistant Professor, Malankara Catholic College, Marthandam; Dr. J. Francis Borgio, Assistant Professor, University of Damam, Saudi Arabia; Dr. F. Brisca Renuga, Assistant Professor, Holy Cross College, Nagercoil; Dr. S. Muthu Kumar, Enotomologist, UPASI, Valparai and Dr. A. Vinoth Kanna, Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology, Theni College of Arts and Science, Theni.
Words are short to express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. N. Murugesan, Professor, Agricultural College and Research Institute, TNAU, Killikulam who selflessly helped me during my research endeavor.

My sincere thanks are due to Dr. A. K. Dikshit, Scientist, Division of Agrochemicals, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi; Dr. E. G. Ebenezer Ponsingh, Professor, Agricultural College and Research Institute, TNAU, Killikulam; Dr. G. Singaravelu, Associate professor, Thiruvalluvar University, Vellore; Dr. D. Patrick Raja, Associate Professor, Department of Botany, St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai; Dr. V. Jeyabal, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Chemistry, St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai; Dr. J. Benet Charles, Associate Professor, Department of Physics, St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai; Dr. K. Eswaran, Scientist, Marine Algal Research Station, Mandapam; Mrs. A. Parveen Sulthana, Assistant Professor, Sadakathullahappa College, Palayamkottai; Prof. C. M. I. Singaraj (Rtd.) Former Head, Department of English, St. John’s College, Palayamkottai for their support and encouragement.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to my fellow scholars Mr. P. Kombiah, Mr. S. Kalidas, Mr. Majesh Tomson, Mr. A. Asharaja, Mr. M. Muthupandi, Mr. N. Subash, Miss. S. Anbu Radhika and Miss. J. Nancy Shophiya. I would like to extend my thanks to Mr. Echereobia Christopher. O, Department of Crop Science, Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Nigeria for his scholarly help in my research effort for the past four months. I also express my sincere thanks to my fellow research scholars Mr. R. Azhaguraj and Mr. P. Balasubramanian and also to the M. Sc students and M. Phil. scholars for their support.
I thank the farmers Mr. S. Rajendran, K. Duraisamypuram, Thoothukudi and Mr. M. Thangamuthu, Kuppanapuram, Tirunelveli and their family members for extending their help and allowing me to test the liquid formulations in the cotton field.

I have no words to express gratitude for my parents Mr. S. Sathiyamoorthy and Mrs. S. Chellathai and also my sister, Miss. S. Radhika for their love, support, care and encouragement throughout my career and the sacrifices they made so I could continue my education.

Also I take this opportunity to thank my friends, Miss. V. Dharani Shanthi, Mr. A. Arunkumar, Mr. S. Ananth, Mr. P. Ananthakumar, Mr. M. Madasamy, Mr. S. Chidambara Raja, Mr. S. Ramesh, Mr. R. Rajadurai, Mr. S. Shunmugaraj and Mr. S. Sivakumar who morally supported me in all along the ways of my career.

Finally I would like to thank all my well wishers, whose names I would have perhaps inadvertently left out but who have encouraged and motivated me in one way or the other.

S. RAJESH