ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge my deep sense of gratitude and sincere thanks to Dr.P.Kasinathan, M.Sc., M.Phil., Ph.D., Reader in Botany, Department of Botany and Microbiology, A.V.V.M. Sri Pushpam College (Autonomous), Poondi, Thanjavur, for having suggested the problem and his valuable guidance, help and constant encouragement during the tenure of the present investigation.

I express my sincere thanks to Shri K. Thulasiah Vandayar, Secretary and Correspondent, A.V.V.M. Sri Pushpam College (Autonomous), Poondi, Thanjavur, for permitting me to carry out this research work.

I am also grateful to Prof. A. Natarajan, M.Sc., M.Phil., Principal, A.V.V.M. Sri Pushpam College (Autonomous), Poondi, Thanjavur, for providing me the necessary facilities in the college.

I wish to express my gratefulness to Dr. C. Lakshminarasimhan, Professor and Head, Department of Botany and Microbiology, A.V.V.M. Sri Pushpam College (Autonomous), Poondi, Thanjavur for his help and constant encouragement throughout the course of research.

I am grateful for the generous help, valuable suggestions and fruitful discussions that I had with Dr. K. V. Krishnamoorthy, Professor and Head, School of Life Sciences, Bharathidasan University Tiruchirappalli.

It is with profound thanks and deep sense of gratitude that I acknowledge the help of Dr. R. Saravanamuthu, Reader in Botany, A.V.C. College (Autonomous), Mayiladuthurai, Dr. C. Manoharan, Reader in Botany, Dr. R. Chandrasekaran, Reader in Botany, A.V.V.M. Sri Pushpam College (Autonomous), Poondi, and Mrs. Sylvia Nithia Kumari, Research Scholar, for helping me in preparation of thesis.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. D. Purushothaman, Professor and Head, Department of Microbiology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and Dr. M. D. Sundaram, Professor and Head, Department of Microbiology, Annamalai University for their timely help and suggestions.
I wish to express my gratefulness to all the staff members of the Department of Botany and Microbiology, A.V.V.M. Sri Pushpam College (Autonomous), Poondi, for all their kind help to carry out this work.

My profound thanks are due to Dr.G.Subramaniyan, Professor and Head, Department of Microbiology, Bharathidasan University, for providing lab facilities.

I extend my sincere thanks to Dr.P.Sathiyamoorthy, Senior Scientist, GEM Foundation, Chennai, Dr.P.Palanivelu, Department of Biochemistry, Madurai Kamarajar University, Dr.M.Subash Chandra Bose, Associate Professor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and Dr.A.Panneerselvam, Reader in Botany, A.V.V.M. Sri Pushpam College (Autonomous), Poondi, for their valuable suggestions pertaining to my work.

I am very grateful to Dr.H.D.Subashini, Senior Scientist, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, for her help by providing Internet facilities with regard to my work.

I wish to thank Mr.T.Kumar, Lecturer in Botany, Mr.C.Chandran, Lecturer in Botany, Mr.V.Ambikapathy, Lecturer in Microbiology, Ms.Sagayagiri, Research Scholar and other research scholars, Department of Botany and Microbiology, A.V.V.M. Sri Pushpam College (Autonomous), Poondi, for their nice co-operation extended during the period of my research work.

I convey my thanks to non-teaching staff members of our department for providing necessary help during the study period.

My thanks are also due to Mr.M.Nagu and Ms.Malathi, Nagu Computers, Thanjavur, for neatly typing this thesis.

P. Prabakaran