ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I can find no adequate expression for my gratitude to Dr. K. V. Krishnamurthy, Reader in Botany, Department of Botany, Bharathi-Dasun University for his constant guidance, invaluable suggestions and intellectual discussions, right from the suggestion of this problem to the completion of this thesis:

I am grateful to Prof. G. R. Rao, and Prof. K. Periasamy for the facilities extended during the course of this work.

I am grateful for the generous help, valuable suggestions and fruitful discussions that I had with Dr G. Subramanian, Dr A. K. Gupta, Dr S. Nagarajan, Prof. Dr. R. Indra and Mrs. C. Santhakumari.

I thank the following for their valuable help in reviewing a part of the work contained in this thesis:
Prof. Dr W. Liese, Institut für Holzbiologie und Holzschutz, Hamburg, West Germany;
Dr P. Baas, Professor of Systematic Plant Anatomy, Rijksherbarium, The Netherlands;
Dr David C. Michener, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, USA;
Dr T. E. Timell, State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, USA; and
Dr R. L. Peterson, Department of Botany, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

No less is my debt to Dr D. F. Cutler and Miss Mary Gregory, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England and to Dr L. J. Kučera, Institut für Mikrotechnologische Holzforschung, Zürich, Switzerland, who helped me a lot in literature collection.

I wish to thank Dr J. B. Fisher, Fairchild Tropical Gardens, Florida, USA for the gift of Chlorazol Black E as well as the procedure used by him. I also thank Messrs. Hilton and Davis & Co., Ohio, USA for the gift of crystal violet lactone.

I wish to record my thanks to Dr T. N. Ananthakrishnan and Dr A. Raman, Entomology Research Unit, Loyolla College, Madras for their help in scanning electron microscopic study of my specimens.
My special thanks are due to Mr. M. Jagannathan, Mr. P. Kasinathan, Dr K. Rajasekaran and Dr G. R. Shivamurthy for their help in procuring some specimens used in this study.

Encouragement, help and cooperation of my colleagues and friends are gratefully acknowledged. My heartfelt thanks are especially due to Dr N. Venugopal, Dr N. Jayabalan, K. Ilangovan, N. Sivaraj, T. Senthilkumar, G. N. Hariharan, K. Ganesan, P. Thangapandian, J. Kalpana, R. Madura Bashini, K. Balakrishnan, and X. Cecily of the Department of Botany.

During the course of my study, I received varied assistance from my brother, sister and brother-in-law. I deeply appreciate their keen sense of interest in my research programme.

I express my profound gratitude to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi, for the financial support in the form of Junior and Senior Research Fellowships during the tenure of which this work was carried out.

Last but not least I thank Mrs. Sundari Natarajan and Mr. S. Venugopal for neatly typing this thesis.