Acknowledgement
I sincerely express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to **Dr. G. Subramanian**, Director, National Facility for Marine Cyanobacteria and Head, Department of Microbiology, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli, for his meticulous guidance. Apart from being my good teacher, I am grateful to him for his paternal kindness, advice and support in ways too numerous to count.

I owe my sincere thanks to Padmashri Dr. G. S. Venkataraman who inspired me the intuition of research.

A special word of thanks to Professor, K.V.Krishnamurthy, Coordinator and Head, School of Life Sciences, Dr. M. A. Akbarsha, Director, Distance Education and Reader, Dept. of Animal Science, Bharathidasan University, for their constant encouragement and help.

I acknowledge Professor D.O.Hall, King's College, London, for providing me with enough of polyvinyl foams and the useful discussions I had with him.

Words are not adequate to express my thankfulness to my friends in NFMC, Dr.L.Uma, Dr.N.Thajuddin, Dr.S.Sekar, Dr.M.Sundararaman, Dr.D.Prabaharan, Dr.T.Thirunalasundari, Dr.P.Malliga, Dr.G.Parimala, Mr.G.Subramanian, Mr.K.Ganesan, Mr.Sunil Kesava Deth and Ms.D.Francisca Kalavathy for their loving help and companionship.

I especially acknowledge the help of Dr.Minnie Mathan, Professor of Pathology, Head, Welcome Trust Research Laboratory, Christian Medical College, Vellore, in carrying out the electronmicroscopic studies.
I am deeply grateful to Mrs. Jaya Subramanian for her loving care and support in innumerable ways.

I am thankful to my dear friend Ms. Bindu Roy for her affectionate and tireless help in different ways.

I am thankful to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Govt. of India, for their financial assistance.

Above all I am deeply grateful to my dear parents and sisters, for their loving support and encouragement which inspired me. I lovingly thank my dear husband Ezekiel Balraj and my aunty for their patient acceptance of my limited time with them.