ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to thank one and all who have contributed to my research directly and indirectly at Bharathidasan University. To every one of them, I offer my gratitude.

A word of thanks will not suffice the contribution of my guide Dr. A. Ganapathi who has been instrumental in completing this thesis. His knowledge, incessant guidance, freedom, motivation and encouragement were a constant inspiration for me through out the period of my research. His support and blessings are the key factors which enabled me to carry out this work successfully. I take this opportunity to express my humble thanks to my respected guide.

I gratefully recall the scientific help extended with alacrity by Dr.K.Veluthambi, Prof. and Head, Department of Plant Biotechnology, Centre for Plant Molecular Biology, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai in executing the transformation studies. I thoroughly enjoyed and benefited from the scientific discussions with him which helped me in planning my work.

My special thanks to Dr.Rafeal Perl-Treves, Department of Life Sciences, Bar Ilan Univ., Ramat-Gan, Israel for providing Agrobacterium strains, PCR primers and other necessities. I wish to record my thanks to my doctoral and SRF committee members Dr.M.Vivekanandan, Prof. and Head, Dept. of Biotechnology, Bharathidasan Univ., Tiruchirappalli, Dr.K.Udaiyan, Prof. and Head, Dept. of Botany, Dean, Faculty of Science, Bharathiyar Univ., Coimbatore and Dr.S.Sankaran, Prof. and Head, Department of Botany, Jamal Md. College, Tiruchirappalli, for their interest in my work, continuous encouragement and valuable suggestions.

I greatly acknowledge TNSCST and CSIR for understanding the importance of my proposal and providing me the financial assistance (JRF & SRF) throughout the entire course of my research.

I wouldn’t fail to record my special thanks to Dr.K.Kathiravan, Scientist, Entomology Research Institute, Chennai, Dr.PUM.Raghavan, Postdoc, Cornell Univ, US and Dr.S. Sunil kumar, Postdoc, Texas Univ. US who introduced me Murashige and Skoog, Luria and Sambrook respectively.
It is beyond my capacity and words to express my gratitude to my colleagues, Mr.N.Selvaraj and Miss.Amutha Sampath Kumar whose support had helped me to prepare the thesis at the right time. Thanks are extended to Dr.Murugesan, Reader, Dept. of English, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, for critically going through the manuscript.

I acknowledge with joy the contributions of VR.Anbazhagan, G.Vengadasan and M.Manickavasagam for their keen interest, support, consistent encouragement, ever willing shoulders, prayers and loving care bestowed upon me during the entire period of investigation. I would not fail to include my fellow colleagues A.Shajahan, S.Kulothungan, S.Sudhakaran, R.Ravikumar, G.Ananthakrishnan, G.Thirupurasundari, V.Irudayaraj, S.Girija, P.Suresh Kumar, V.Vasudevan, M.Muruganandam, R.Vasugidevi and S.Selvi.

I owe much to many and it is a pleasure to record my thanks to Mrs.V.Balamani, Mr.K.Mukherjee, AS.Karthikeyan, A.Krishnamohan, V.Balaji, R.Vanitha, Thillai, R. Rajumuni and Susan, Research Scholars, Dept. of Plant Biotechnology, CPMB, MKU.

This page isn't enough to acknowledge my beloved friends, helpmates and saviours at the time of crisis. So it is in www.premfriends.bdu.ernet.in., which includes jkalia, ramesh & ramesh, alagu, arun, thiru, kannan & kannan, bindu, suresh, jkanda, varisai, gsk, batcha, ramana, maris, achi @ friends.bdu.ernet.in.

I am grateful to M.Krishnasamy and S.Alagumuthu for assisting me in official work and field experiments.

I owe immensely to my beloved parents, brother, Mr. & Mrs.Hariharan without whose love, constant encouragement, patience and continued support, this work would not have been accomplished.

Pream Anand, R