ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author wishes to express her deep sense of gratitude and immense heart felt thanks to her guide, Prof. B. Padhi, B.Sc., Hons. (Utkal) M.Sc. (Lucknow), Ph.D. (Calif), former Professor of Botany and Dean of Faculty of Science, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar for his kind suggestion of the problem, valuable guidance, continued interest and constant encouragement evinced during the course of this study.

The author wishes to express her gratitude to Dr. K. V. Srinivasan, former Co-ordinator and Head of the Central Institute for Cotton Research and Dr. J. G. Phatt, Head of the Department of Physiology, Central Institute for Cotton Research, Coimbatore, for permitting her to register through the Institute and providing facilities for carrying out her work.

The author wishes to express her sincere and profound thanks to Dr. D. Purushothaman, Associate Professor of Microbiology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore for his valuable suggestions and keen interest evinced by him on the preparation of the thesis.

The author is greatly indebted to the management and Principal of Nirmala College, Coimbatore for permission granted to her to carry out the research work.

T. N. Sundaram