ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I thank and praise the Lord Almighty who made me to complete this Ph.D. thesis successfully.

Words fail to express my deep sense of gratitude to my guide Dr. L. Louis Jesudass, M.Sc., B.Ed., M.Phil., Ph.D., Reader in Botany, Department of Plant Biology and Biotechnology, St. Xavier’s College, Palayamkottai for suggesting this problem and also for his constant encouragement and much needed moral support and guidance throughout this research work. Without his help, this endeavour of mine would not have materialised.

I am thankful to Rev. Dr. Antonysamy, S.J., Ph.D., former Principal & Rev. Dr. Alphonse Manickam, S.J., Ph.D., present Principal of St. Xavier’s College, Palayamkottai for giving me an opportunity to do my Ph.D. work in this college.

I wish to thank Dr. D. Vasanthavathy, Ph.D., former Principal and Dr. J. Sinthikayal, Ph.D., present Principal of Women’s Christian College, Nagercoil for allowing me to do the Part-time Ph.D., course.

I owe immense gratitude and obligation to Dr. Jayaraman, Ph.D., a renowned anatomist, Director, PARC, Chennai for his sincere help in carrying out the anatomical studies.

I offer my heartful thanks and deep sense of gratitude to Dr. K. Natarajan, M.Sc., M.Phil., Ph.D., Head of the Department of Plant Biology and Biotechnology for permitting me to do this work in the department and also for providing the lab facilities.
My acknowledgement with deep sense of gratitude to Late Dr. Thomas, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., Head of the Department of Tamil, St. John’s College, Palayamkottai for his motivation, generous and unfailing help.

I extend my sincere thanks to Dr. V. Chellathurai, Ph.D., Research Officer (Rtd.) Medicinal Plant Survey Unit, Government Siddha Medical College, Palayamkottai for collection and identification of the plant specimens.

I am thankful to Rev. Dr. V.S. Manickam, S.J., Ph.D., CBB St. Xavier’s College, Palayamkottai for allowing me to refer the Herbarium.

I express my heartfelt thanks to Mr. Saravana Gandhi, M.Sc., M.Ed., M.Phil., Lecturer in Botany, Rani Anna Government Arts College for Women, Tirunelveli for his support and help throughout this project work.

I express my indebted gratitude to Dr. V.S. Joseph Albert, Ph.D., Head of the Department of English, St. Xavier’s College, Palayamkottai and Dr. L. Henry Joseph, M.Sc., B.Ed., M.Phil., Ph.D., in the Department of Plant Biology and Biotechnology, St. Xavier’s College, Palayamkottai and also Mr. Selvam, M.A., Executive Project Officer of Nagercoil for their generous help in proof correction.

I extend my sincere thanks to the faculty members of the Department of plant biology and Biotechnology, St. Xavier’s College, Palayamkottai for their help and encouragements in this project work.

I wish to thank the Head of the Department, Prof. Joy Mohan Dhas, M.Sc., M.Phil. and the Faculty members of the Department of Plant Biology and Biotechnology, Women’s Christian College, Nagercoil for their encouragements.
My sincere thanks to all the lab assistants of the Department of Plant Biology and Biotechnology, St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai for their generous help during the course of my study.

I express my sincere thanks to the Scadar lab for allowing me to do the microbiology work.

I am grateful to the computer centers Sreenesa, Logos and Wi-maxx of Nagercoil for typing the materials and also for scanning the diagrams.

I am indebted and thankful to my husband Dr. G. Berylson Edward, M.B.B.S., M.S., D.N.B., my daughter B. Shafini Beryl and my son B. Jaberson for their co-operation and moral encouragement & support.

I dedicate this thesis entitled as "Pharmacognosy and Antimicrobial activities of six species of Vitex in Tamil Nadu" to my beloved parents Late Mr. C. Simson and Late Mrs. V. Christal Abaranam Simson, who were the prime souls of inspiration for doing my Ph.D. work. I owe a deep debt of gratitude to my beloved parents.