ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all I thank God Almighty for showering abundant grace on me to complete my Ph. D work.

I am grateful to Rev. Fr. Dr. Alphonse Manickam, S.J., former Principal Rev. Fr. Dr. A. Joseph, S.J., Principal and Rev. Dr. A. Arockiasamy S.J., Secretary, St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai, for given me the opportunity to do my research work in this college.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my guide, Dr. V. Irudayaraj, for his continuous support of my Ph. D study and research, for his patience, motivation, enthusiasm, and immense knowledge. His guidance helped me in all the time of research and writing of this thesis.

I am very much thankful to Dr. L. Louis Jesudass, Head and Dr. K. Natarajan, former Head, Department of Plant Biology and Plant Biotechnology, St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai for providing general laboratory facilities and for their encouragements throughout my research works.
I thankfully remember all kinds of encouragements and laboratory facilities provided by late Rev. Dr. V. S. Manickam S. J, former Director, Centre for Biodiversity and Biotechnology (CBB), St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai. I acknowledge the same kinds of encouragements and facilities provided by the present Director of CBB, Rev. Dr. J. Arulandam S. J.

I thank Rev. Dr. Ignacimuthu S. J., Director, Dr. Gabriel Paulraj and Dr. Durai Pandiyar, Scientists, Entomology Research Institute, Loyola College Chennai for their exuberant guidance and help to carry out phytochemical and bioautographic analysis. Rev. Dr. M. Albert William S J., Secretary, Loyola College (Autonomous), Chennai morally supported and inspired me to successfully complete my Ph. D work as early as possible.

I am very much thankful to Dr. Paulraj M. D., Department of Medicine, Dr. N. Palaniappan M. D., Dr. S. Poongodi @ Lakhsmi M. D., Dr. G. Sucila Thangam M. D., Dr. G. Velvizhi M. D., P. G students and all the staff members, Department of Microbiology, Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital Tirunelveli, for their valuable guidance and helps when doing major part of antimicrobial assay. Dr. Nirmala Devi M. D., Dr. Judith Roy M. D. and Dr. Sivayayadevi M. D, Department of Dermatology, Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital, for their helps to collect clinical samples.
I am also thankful to Mrs. Saroja Edwin and A. James Raja Scudder Microbiology Laboratories, Nagercoil for their helps to carry out preliminary antimicrobial assay. I thank Dr. M. A. Haniffa, Director, and research scholars, Centre for Aquaculture Research and Extension, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai for providing facilities to carry out bioautography.

I thank the technical staff of Asthagiri Herbal Research Foundation, Chennai and Department of Chemistry, St. Joseph’s College (Autonomous), Tiruchirapalli, to carry out HPLC, HPTLC and FTIR studies. In this connection I also remember the helps done by Mr. N. Janakiraman.

I am also thankful to Dr. L. Henry Joseph, Dr. D. Patric Raja, Dr. A. John De Britto, Mr. S. Beschi Antony Rayan, Dr. G. Sahaya Anthony Xavier, Dr. M. Johnson, Mr. John Peter Paul and Mr. Christopher Patrick, Faculty members, Department of Plant Biology and Biotechnology, Mr. Jeyapaul, Department of Chemistry, St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai; Dr. G. Jeya Jothi, Department of Plant Biology and Plant Biotechnology, Loyola College Chennai; Dr. Chandrasekar, Professor, Ms. Hirdya, Research scholar, Department of Geotechnology, M. S. University, Tirunelveli; Dr. Savariraj Sahayam, Assistant Professor CARISAM, Sashtra University, Tanjore and Dr. G. Subash, M. D (s) Govt. Siddha Medical College, Palayamkottai for their
kind encouragements and helps which help me to complete my research work successfully.

I thank my colleagues Mr. B. Jeyasuresh, Mr. Ganthi Kumar, Mrs. Mary Sujin, St. Xavier’s College Palayamkottai for their timely helps, suggestions and encouragements during my study. I express my gratitude to Dr. K. Paulraj Head, Department of Botany, N. M. Christian College, Martandam, for his help in collecting literatures and for his suggestion and advices when ever needed.

I proudly acknowledge indebtedness and express my deepest appreciation to my husband J. Vincent, elder son V. S. Joevin, my younger son V. Joe Jeffrin and to all the members of my family for their cooperation and sacrifices made to complete the thesis satisfactorily.

Once again I humbly bow in gratitude to the God almighty for his blessing to complete my Ph. D work.

C. PAULINE VINCENT