ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I owe my sincere gratitude to my Supervisor, Prof. B. C. Tripathy for his constant support, encouragement, supervision and freedom to realize my scientific pursuit and having shown faith in my abilities. I owe him lots of gratitude for having me shown the path of research. His vision and generosity has seen me through all ordeals. This piece of work would have been a distant dream for me without him. Thank you very much, Sir.

I am extremely thankful to the present and the former Deans of the School of Life Sciences for generating all necessary facilities and conducive environment for carrying out the present work.

I am very indebted to Prof V. Rajamani from Environmental Sciences for providing me Element analysis facility.

I am thankful to Dr. R.K Singh and Dr R.K. Gautam from CSSRI Karnal for not only providing but helping me in getting seeds from CSSRI Karnal. Thanks a lot to both of you sir. I am also thankful to Sanjay from CSSRI Karnal.

I am thankful to Jogindre and Mahfooj for their help in MALDI TOF-TOF beyond their capacity.

Thank you very much Saini sir. My thesis glows only because of your beautiful photographs. The necessary technical support from Mr S K Mishra, Mr. Alexander, Mr Khan, and Mr Sharma helped me to continue my work uninterruptedly. My special thanks to all these gentlemen.

I am very thankful to Nerender Chaudry from IIT making my spectral data presentable.

No words suffice to thank my incredible lab members Dr B S Tiwary, Dr Ardenthu Dash, Dr Maya, Dr Suchi, Dr Versha, Dr Sasmita, Dr Gopal, Dr Rupesh, Dr Ajay, Ansuman, Dr Siddhartha, Chhavi, Rajneesh, Vijay, Naveen, Namrata, Siva, Manas, Vivek, Parteek, Rahul, Priyanka, Deepika, Chitra and several summer trainees for their affection, care, support in lab management and sometimes tolerating my erratic behavior and annoyance. Dr Budhi's encouraging and helpful nature always inspired me. Enjoyment of his company during
morning and evening tea is memorable. Positive attitude of Dr Rupesh always inspired me for not getting despaired. Thanks for your company during several adventurous trips.

I am thankful to Ratnakarn for REAL-TIME experiments.

I am thankful to Rahul, Rekha, Bhavna, Superva and Ansu who helped me a lot during their summer trainings.

This part of work would have never started without the love, affection and support of my friends O P Siwach, Vineet, Surender, Krishan, Rahul, Rakesh. The encouraging words, the emotional support and a long association with you charmed my life. In my most tiring and difficult times your company brought volumes of smile. I miss all of you a lot and will fondly remember your company. Wishing you all a happy, prosperous and a great life ahead.

I wish to express my thanks to Mr. Sumer Singh for his full cooperation in official hassles. Day to day help of Naresh, Ramesh and Baljit, Joshi, Natthu- is duly acknowledged.

The services of JNU Canteens: Ajay and Gopalan uncle (Library), Ashok, Manoj and Babuva (Godavari Dhaba), Panditji, Ali, Shadeek (SSS canteen) are duely acknowledged. Thank you friends for your love, care and service.

I am very thankful to Pandit Ji (Parveen Traders) for providing me necessary lab chemicals and other things of experimental use at any time.

My friends, colleagues and juniors at the School of Life Sciences: Special thanks to all of you, and I really mean all of you, have contributed to my thesis.

The financial assistance DBT and CSIR in the form of fellowship is duly acknowledged.

I am thankful to my family and especially my father who gave me money in the situation when Govt funding agencies CSIR and DBT financial help failed to reach me. I am thankful to my younger brother Jaipal who helped me in my everyday life.