

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is with great pleasure I express my sincere thanks and devote my deepest gratitude to **Prof. S. Chidananda Sharma** for his invaluable guidance, immeasurable support and encouragement throughout the course of my research work. It will be of a great privilege to have my association with him and cherish for a long time to come. He introduced me not only to many areas of research in biology but also to other side of veracity of life. His way of motivations, tackling of research and scientific problems increased my scientific temper.

I also wish to express my sincere thanks to **Prof. S. K. Sarangi**, Chairman, Department of Microbiology and Biotechnology, Bangalore University, Bangalore, for his assistance and support throughout my research work.

My sincere thanks to **Prof. K. Manjunath**, Department of Microbiology and Biotechnology, Bangalore University, Bangalore for his support and encouragement.

My deep sense of gratitude to **Prof. A. J. Rao**, Department of Biochemistry, IISc, Bangalore for his encouragement. I also express my thanks to **Prof. Paturu Kondaiah and Dr. Deepak K Saini**, Department of Molecular Reproduction, Development and Genetics, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for extending to use Fluorescence microscope facility during my research work.

I wish to render my gratitude to **Prof. M. C. Gayathri**, Department of Botany and Department of Molecular Biology, Bangalore University, Bangalore, for extending to use the lab facility and for her kind co-operation. My sincere thanks to **Prof. M. V. V. Subramanyam**, Department of Lifescience, Bangalore University, Bangalore for his help and constant encouragement. I convey my sincere thanks to **Prof. H. P. Puttaraju**, Department of Biological Sciences, Bangalore University, Bangalore, and his students for helping to use his lab facility.

It is with great pleasure I thank **Prof. Govindarajan T Ramesh**, Department of Biology, Center for Biotechnology and Biomedical Sciences, Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA, for his constant support and encouragement.

I convey my heartfelt thanks to **Dr. K. S. Devaraju**, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology and Biotechnology, Bangalore University, Bangalore for all his help and co-operation in my research work. I also thank **Mr. Harisha and Mr. Gopi** for all the help rendered during my research work.

It gives me a great pleasure to render my sincere gratitude to **Prof. Meena Rajiv Chandawarkar**, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, **Prof. S. A Khazi**, Registrar, **Dr. Shivkumar Madagi**, Chairman, Department of Bioinformatics, Karnataka State Women's University, Bijapur for their moral support and co-operation to complete my research work.

My special thanks to all my colleagues **Mrs. Vijayalakshmi E**, **Mr. Naveen Kumar M**, **Mrs. Rajeshwari H Patil**, **Mr. Kiran Kumar K M**, **Ms. Shubha Hedge**, **Ms. Kavya and Ms. Rashmi** for their immense continuous support and help throughout the course of my investigation.

I am grateful to **University Grants Commission** for providing me the **Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship** for my research work to reach its full potential.

With love and affection, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to **Mr. Ajay** and **Mr. Nagesh** and my wife **Manjula** and relatives for their support and encouragement.

I wish to express my thanks to all my department and hostel friends **Mr. Sumantha**, **Mr. Palaksha**, **Mr. P. B. Ravi**, **Mr. Sathish**, **Mr. Murali**, **Mr. P.G. Raghavendra**, **Mr. Jagadish and Ms. Jyothi** for their timely help and support.

I deeply acknowledge the support given by all the faculty members and non-teaching staff of Department of Microbiology and Biotechnology, Bangalore University, Bangalore, for their support and constant encouragement.

Babu. R. Lamani