SUMMARY

In the present thesis the subject is basically divided into following chapters viz.,

1. Historical perspectives relating to the time and place of Basavaraju.
2. Re-identification of herbs described in Basvarajeeyam.

Section - A:
Re-identification of herbs described in Sanskrit verses.

Section - B:
Re-identification of herbs described in Telugu verses of Basvarajeeyam.

Section - C:
Re-identification of herbs described in Parentheses of Basvarajeeyam.

As regards the time and place of Basavaraju, it is concluded in the first chapter that he belonged to 18th century. He lived in Telengana region of Andhra Pradesh and extended his practice from Mahaboobnagar and Nalgonda districts to the BACK area (Bellary, Anatapur, Cuddapah and kurnool). He embraced Aradhya cult of Saivism.

In the second chapter under section A a sincere effort is made to list out and identify botanically the herbs described in the Sanskrit verses of the text Basvarajeeyam. During the process it was found that Basavaraju, apart from compiling the herbs mentioned in various Samhitas and Nighantus, Sanskritised some of the Telugu vernaculars of the herbs like
Nepalam (Jayapala), Jaji (Jati), Goranta (Madayantika) and Musambaram (Kanyasara). He also introduced one drug namely Jharasi (Mollugo Opposlitifolia), known as Chetarasi in Telugu vernacular. Basavaraju administered extensively Visha and Upavisha drugs viz., Vatsanabha, Arka, Snuhi, Langali, Karaveera, Ahiphena etc. along with Vishamusti, Bhallataka, Jayapala which are also considered as having Vyavayi and vikasi gunas like other semi-poisonus drugs.

The section -B is entirely based on the field study in which a successful endeavour is made to collect, compile and furnish details of botanical identification of herbs described in Telugu verses of Basvarajeeyam. Following are some of the local herbs incorporated in Telugu verses.

1. Regotti - Capparis grandis
2. Chetarasi - Mollugo opposlitifolia
3. Gollajiddaku - Ipomea sepiaria
4. Raktamandala - Ventiligo madraspatana
5. Chennangi - Cassia sophera
6. Nalamukkada - Limonia alata
7. Ucchinta - Solanam pubescens.
8. Illinda - Diaspyros chloroxylon.
9. Barrebacchali - Cissus setosus
10. Tellavelaki - Gardenia turgida
11. Tundilapuchekka - Jatropha glandulifera
12. Chanchali - Digera muricata

It could not be possible, inspite of repeated enquiries during the field study, to trace out the correct botanical source for the herb mentioned by Basavaraju, namely oddurtigadda. However, the word Oddurti is found as a Telugu vernacular for Celastrus paniculatus (Jyotishmati) in A.W. Lushington’s work “
Vernacular list of trees, shrubs and woody climbers in the Madras presidency”. Future researchers may look into this aspect for the correct identifications of the Odduriti Gadda. The vernaculars mentioned by Basavaraju namely Dommadolugadda, Buddakachaku, Kavvapugummadi, Musimoragadda, Nagarasapugadda, Chagasaprugadda, Muludosa, Galanelli etc. gave stronger evidence to establish the fact Basavaraju hailed from Telengana region as these vernaculars are in vogue even today in that particular area. Apart from the Sanskrit and Telugu aphorisms, we also find some recipes mentioned in the parenthesis. The treatment for Prasuti Vata, seeta vata, Visha etc., have been described in these parenthesis. The following herbs can be considered as the outstanding contribution made by Basavaraju among the herbs mentioned in the parenthetical descriptions.

1. Nakkapeetaku - Lepidagathis cristata
2. Kasara - Momordica tuberosa
3. Teegamusidi - Tiliacera acuminata

The vernaculars DOGGALI for Meghanada (Amaranthus spinosus) and PUTTAPODARU or PUTTAPODA for Meshasringi (Gymnema sylvestre) are mentioned only in parenthetical descriptions, while Chirri and Podapatri are given as vernaculars to these drugs respectively in Sanskrit as well as Telugu verses. During our field study, we could not find the correct botanical source for the herbs, namely KALIMESWARA, PARITU, BEETLA and VASTRAGALITA which are mentioned in the parenthetical expression of Basavarajeeyam. Further study is needed for identification of these drugs. On a careful study about the herbs mentioned in Basavarajeeyam, it is observed that the total no. of herbs used in the text are 385 out of which 341 are mentioned in Sanskrit verses, 32 in Telugu verses and 12 in the parentheses. In the present study the botanical identity is established for 380 herbs. In total Basavaraju contributed 15 new herbs (1 in Sanskrit verse, 11 in Telugu Verses and 3 in Parentheses) to the Ayurvedic Materia Medica. Basavarajeeyam is a popular text among the other medical books of Andhra
Pradesh. It is also known to vaidyas of the other parts of the country as a valuable therapeutic textbook because of the efforts of Pandit Govardhana sharma changani. As it was rightly put by Basavaraju, this treatise can compete with any other standard Ayurvedic text book. And thus the statement "KALAU BASAVAKAHSMRITAH" holds good. The approach of Basavaraju in diagnosis and classification of diseases is unique and adaptable. The treatments suggested by him are practical and result oriented. Introduction of certain recipes of mercurial kingdom in right context increases the validity of this work. Basavaraju, apart from including classical herbs mentioned by his predecessors, incorporated an array of locally available herbs which is definitely a greater contribution to the science of Ayurveda. In this thesis, an effort has been made to highlight the merits of this work with a special reference to re-identification of herbs newly introduced by Basavaraju, and it will go a long way in promoting the health of human beings and popularising the harmless and effective therapy i.e., Ayurveda.