Acknowledgement

The culmination of my Ph.D., the results compacted into beads of chapters, embodied in the form of a thesis, owes a lot to various souls that have guided me through this odyssey. It's a candid confession of my incapability to sculpt an acknowledgement that can put the contribution of all the concerned people in right proportion and color. This is a humble attempt at mentioning about the people who made enormous contributions or added an iota to embellish my work.

The names that flashe in my mind are obviously my supervisors Prof. Rakesh Bhatnagar and Dr. Nirupama Banerjee, for their able guidance, vision and concern throughout the tenure of my work. I will be grateful to them for being always there to address and redress my problem at any hour of time. A special thanks to Dr. Nirupama Banerjee for her time, constructive criticism and deftly designing of experiments, She instilled a ‘Never Say Die’ attitude in me. Thank you very much, Ma’am and Sir!

A splendid group of faculty members at Centre for Biotechnology, who were always ready to lend a helping hand, have left an everlasting impression on my mind. Thanks to all of you.

I thank Dr. Devapriya Choudhury for offering his guidance and help whenever needed. I thankfully acknowledge Dr. Raj Bhatnagar for his words of encouragement and help.

My labmates, some present some gone, have been simply excellent in providing a conducive work environment. The momentary stay of several summer trainees and M.Sc. students has added to my experience of working in a group. I will always cherish you all in good memories.

My batchmates, with whom I started this journey, shared all the ups and downs gradually became my strength. I owe a lot to all of you.

I would also thank and acknowledge the help and cooperation extended by the work force available in the office and the labs.

My interdisciplinary work entailed a significant amount of help from Department of Entomology at IARI for which I thank Drs. G. P. Gupta and Ajanta and the lab members. They were very generous to extend all their help. Thank you so much.

There has been a lot of influx and efflux of student during my stay. Each one of them has contributed to the progress of this centre. I strongly wish that more students would come to this centre and work with dedication and commitment to carry on this torch. My best wishes.

Animal house staff deserves all plaudits for their untiring efforts to help me with my experiments.

My friends though always complaining for my extremely busy schedules were secretly appreciative and gave me a discount whenever I needed. Thank You!!

Financial help extended by CSIR in the form of Research fellowships is also acknowledged.

This goes by the trend that family members are settled at the last of an acknowledgement. But they remain the ultimate source of inspiration and confidence. No words can thank the understanding, support and love showed by my sister Rakhi during the whole journey.

I owe a lot to my parents who have patiently accepted all my whims and procrastinations. The sacrifice of their due time and share was incredible. They are the source of my inspiration and truly deserve my dedication.