Acknowledgements

It is my privilege to thank Prof. T. Suryanarayana, for his guidance, support, encouragement and help throughout the course of my work. Working with him has been a most valuable learning experience.

I am grateful to Prof. Subba Rao for generously allowing me to use the facilities in his lab during my tenure.

I would like to thank former Deans, School of Life Sciences, Prof. R. P. Sharma and Prof. T. Suryanarayana, and current Dean School of Life Sciences, Prof A. S. Raghavendra for extending all necessary facilities for the work.

I wish to thank Prof. K. V.A Ramaiah, Prof. P. B. Kitti Kumar, Prof. P. R. K. Reddy, Prof. R. P. Sharma, Prof. M. N. V. Prasad, Dr. Manjula Sridharan and Dr. K. Anand Kumar for their advice, help and encouragement during the course of this work.

Financial assistance from CSIR, in the form of junior and senior research fellowships is gratefully acknowledged.

The timely and prompt help from Dr. Rolf Bernander, Associate Professor, Department of Molecular Evolution, Evolutionary Biology Center, Uppsala University, Sweden, Dr. Rudi Lurz, Head, Microscopy Unit, Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics, Berlin and Dr. Syed E. Hasnain, Director CDFD is gratefully acknowledged.

My heartfelt thanks to Mr. Lallan Prasad, Mr. Srinivas Murty, Mr. Venkateswar Rao, Mr. Pattabhi, Mr. Nageswar Rao and other non teaching staff members for their help and cooperation.

My colleagues Mrs. Neeraja, Mrs. Nagalaxmi, Mr. Mahipal, Mr. Harikrishna, Ms. Aparna, Mrs. Gargi, Mr. Chandrashekhar, Mr. Aital Nagabhushan, Mr. Ravinder, Mr. Mallikarjun, Mr. Sundaram, Mr. Rajshekhar, Mr. Ramprasad, Mr. Hussain, Mr.
Srinath, Mrs. Maya, Mrs. Vasanti and Mrs. Kalavathi I thank for being there when I needed help.

Thanks are due to Dr. Malathi for her kind concern and affection. My thanks to Mrs. and Prof. Saleemuddin for their encouragement and support.

My deepest gratitude to my parents, Mrs and Prof. Md. Amir Ali and my brother, Md. Mansoor for their constant unflinching support and encouragement. I thank them for the confidence they had in me and for standing by me at all stages and at all times.