ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am greatly indebted to Dr. Chandy Kurian, Entomologist and Dr.(Mrs) P Shanta, Virologist, Central Plantation crops Research Institute, Regional Station, Kayar:ngulam, Krishnapuram 690533 for valuable guidance, constant encouragement, helpful suggestions and improvement of manuscript.

I owe a great deal to late Dr. KK Nayar, Professor & Head of the Department of Zoology, University of Kerala & Chairman of the Doctoral Committee, who inspired me to the present effort with his learned suggestions on the scope of work.

I am very thankful to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, particularly to the Director, C P C R I, Kasaragod for permitting me to undertake the present study and utilize the data for this thesis.

I express my gratitude to Dr.(Mrs) K Radha, Plant Pathologist in charge, CPCRI (RS), Krishnapuram for the facilities provided to carry out this work and the suggestions offered by her as member of the supervising committee.

Dr. Richard C Froeschner and late Dr. Carl J Drake of the Smithsonian Institution, were kind enough to send me free of cost, the literature relating to taxonomy of tingidae. I wish to place on record my indebtedness to them for the timely help.

The cooperation received from my colleagues in the statistical analysis of data, preparation of trans-sections of leaf tissue, estimation of chlorophyll, collection of data on insect population, preparation of drawings/photographs and typing the thesis is gratefully acknowledged.

My thanks are also due to my wife: Annie, who kept my glowing splinter of enthusiasm of completing this piece of work repeatedly rekindled.

K Mathen