ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would first like to express my sincere thanks to my research guide, Dr. M. G. Bodhankar, who has been there to support and guide me throughout my research work. His enthusiasm and dedication to science is an inspiration.

I am thankful to Dr. K. D. Jadhav, Principal, Bharati Vidyapeeth University, Yashwantrao Mohite College, Pune.

I thank Dr. Mrs. V. R. Sapre, Head of Microbiology Department, for allowing me to work in the laboratory and also for her encouragement and insight throughout this work.

I express my thanks to Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Pune who helped me in the identification of plants.

I am thankful to Agharkar Research Institute for making significant contributions to the project by sequencing fungal DNA and assisting with culture maintenance.

I would also like to thank Dr. Rojatkar, Poona College of Pharmacy and National Chemical Laboratory for valuable help in the isolation and identification of bioactive molecules.

This project would not have been possible without the help of Mr. Kharge, Mr. Patole and Mr. Gholve who helped me during my entire work period. I am also very thankful to Mr. Chaitram Pawar, for helping me and guiding me in the collection of plants from the tribal region, used in my study. I am also thankful to all known and unknown persons who have been of valuable help to me directly or indirectly.

Finally, I could not have done any of this without the love and support of my family. I am extremely blessed to have loving parents, who have always believed in my ability and supported me to accomplish whatever I put my mind to.

( Ms. Priya Somwanshi )