ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all I would like to express my gratitude and thankfulness to my supervisor, Dr. M R. Das, who has been a driving force throughout the course of this study. He has always helped and encouraged me in developing an independent line of thinking. His "no spoon feeding" has helped me a lot in designing experiments to approach scientific problems.

My stay in CCMB was made pleasant and fruitful by the co-operation and help offered by many individuals. Though I would like to thank them individually, the space constraint restricts me. I am very much thankful to all of them.

I had fruitful discussions with Dr. Ghanshyam Swarup and Dr. Gowrishankar. Dr. Sharat Chandra and Dr. Balasubramanian took interest in my work and helped me. My thanks are due to them. The congenial atmosphere for research that exists in the CCMB, is the result of efforts of Dr. P. M. Bhargava, to whom, I owe a great deal.

Sushil and Yogendra have helped me in very many ways. I am very much thankful to them. I thank Patil, Girish, Asha, Girija, Sridhar, Lakshma, Shirly and Rakesh for their help during the early phase of my Ph.D.

It is with great pleasure that I express my thanks to Dr. Balasubramanian, Dr. Das, Dr. Lalji Singh, Dr. Dipankar Chatterji, Shakti, Shyamala, Uma, Bhavana, Amit, Rajyashree, Raghvendra, Sanjay, Anil Kumar, Arvind, Nambi, Velvizhi, Radhika, Vijaya, Anil, Shubhangi, Balbir, Shreekant, Chotu, Abhijit, Hameed, Naren, Anindo, Vinisha, Satyendra, Shivakrupa, Ritu, Lakshmi, Tharun, R.K., for their help and support during the bad phase towards the end of this work.
I am very much thankful to Murali Krishna who offered his help whenever I needed. Hemlatha typed the thesis and Sudhakar, Banerjee, Milind, Giri, Hameed and Amit did the proof-reading. My thanks are due to them.

I thank Nagesh for the synthesis of oligonucleotides used in this study. I am thankful to Prakash and Bhasker for photocopying, Rehman, Nageshwar Rao, Ramesh and Khalid for providing me with good quality prints, Chandramauli and Rao for making the plates. I thank Nageshwar, Joshi, Suresh and Dhawaliker of fine chemicals section, Chengaiah of stores and purchase section, Jayaraman and Hari of animal house, Gopinath and colleagues of instruments group, Islam and D. V. Singh of Jonaki and Suguna, Ramu and Swamy of Bioinformatics for their help. I am thankful to my colleagues in S310- Revathi, Swamy and Usha, who have helped me in many ways. I thank my other colleagues on south wing second floor - Sudhakar, Manogaran, Amit, Neeraj, Swamy, Sridhar, Sunder, Gopal, Kumudini, Vishnu Priya, Mazhar, Raza Ali, Gafoor, Ravi, Hemlatha, Ranga Rao and Satyanarayana for maintaining a good research atmosphere.

I thank CSIR for the financial support in the form of a fellowship.

I would like to mention that if I have forgotten anybody, my memory, and not my sense of gratitude is to be blamed.

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA