ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

First of all I would like to thank Dr Ravi Sirdeshmukh for agreeing to be my supervisor and providing me guidance in this project. The freedom offered has helped me for developing an independent thinking about the line of the research work and the experimental skills for studying this system. I am grateful to Prof. D. Balasubramanian, director, CCMB for his continuous encouragement and support for this research work. I thank Prof. Sharatchandra, former director of CCMB for identifying this as an interesting piece of work and his generous support for its execution. I associated for a long time with Dr P. M. Bhargava, founder director of CCMB, who is a well-wisher in my scientific career. I am grateful to him. I want to express my thanks to Dr M. W. Pandit, with whom I had the privilege of publishing the first research communication.

I am thankful to Dr Chatterji and Dr Ghanashyam Swaroop for their interest and encouragement during the course of this work. I am grateful to Dr N. Sitaram for his enthusiastic participation in the discussions and critical evaluation of the results. I would like to express my gratitude to Dr T. R. K. Murthi and Dr N. Sitaram for proof reading and offering me valuable suggestions in finalizing this thesis. I am duty bound to thank my colleagues Dr Tharun, Sri Vijayarangam and Sri Ramadasu for extending me every cooperation during the course of this research work; in particular Sri Ramadasu has provided me with the substrate RNA for a substantial part of this research work.

Finally I want to thank Sri M. V. S. Murthy for the initial typing, Sri Rahman and Sri Nageswara Rao for the photographic work, Sri Chandramouli for preparing the line drawings, Sri Bhaskar and Sri Prakash for xeroxing, in preparing this thesis.

B. S. N. Murthy