Acknowledgements

I feel privileged to express my true feelings and sentiments about Dr. Lalji Singh, my research supervisor, on the following grounds. He introduced me to the field of genetic engineering and gene cloning in insect system and gave me complete freedom to design and execute the experiments. He discussed precise and updated all the relevant experiments that did help considerably in organizing the current work in a scientific form. His sincerity, dedication, perfectionist nature, down to earth attitude is worth emulating. His contribution in shaping and developing my scientific personality will forever remain a milestone in my scientific career.

I am extremely thankful to Dr. Seyed E. Hasnain, (Director, CDJ/D for allowing me to work at both CCMB and CDJ/D, as and when I wanted. His constant encouragement and support especially during later stages of my stay in CDJ/D is appreciable. I am thankful to Dr. Lalji Singh, Director, CCMB, for permitting me to work at CCMB and extending all the facilities. I would like to thank Dr. (M. W. (Bandit for his moral support and encouragement.

Witha deep sense of gratitude I extend my thanks to Dr. J. Hggaraju for all the help provided to me in various forms. His suggestions regarding the experiments and fruitful discussions while writing the thesis were really helpful.

I gratefully acknowledge the support and encouragement of the Head of the Department, Prof. (P. Reddanna and all the staff members of Department of Animal Sciences, University of Hyderabad.

I wish to express my gratitude to (Dr Abha Sharma, (Dr. M. P. Nipadikhara for teaching me the basics of molecular biology and Dr AmarPalmSingh for meticulously going through my thesis and giving thoughtful suggestions to bring it to the present form.

I am also grateful to (Dr Kshitish Majumdar, (Dr Ramesh K. Aggarwal, (Dr A.J. (Rachel, (Dr G. R. Chandak, and (Dr G.V Rao for their help in a number of ways and at different times throughout my stay at CCMB.

I am indebted to all the staff members of Seri Biotech Research Laboratory, (Bangalore especially Dr. A. K. Awasthi, Dr. K. Reddy, Dr. G. M. Nagaraja and (Mrs Savithri for providing me the silkworm strains and all the help, whenever I was in need.
I gratefully acknowledge the help of the staff of various supporting services of ODfD and CCMB. Much of the work in this thesis would not have been possible in the absence of the untiring support from Photography and Refrigeration sections. Special thanks are due to Mr. Giridharan for helping me with scanning, photographs and printouts, Mrs. Nandini for scanning the silkworm sections and Mr Prakash for xerography several copies of the thesis in a short notice.

for making my stay memorable at CCMB and ODfD, the credit goes to all the former and present members of (Dr. Lalji's group. My heartfelt and sincere thanks to all of them. I thank Hema, Francina, Shankar, Naren, Priscilla, Sanjay, Sanjeev, Trupta, Bhupen, Zeenath, Radha, Mala, Seema, Deepa, Rama, Uma Prasad, Ravinder, Naseer, Vanya, (Dibeyendu, Kathirvel, Pandian, Sukanya, Radhika, Shiva, Lekha, Muthulakshmi, Dharmaprasad, Ramana, Kathirvelu, Vandana, Subramaniam, Amritha, Rajesh, Shailaja, Subhadra, Shalini, Idris, Lakshmi, Sandeep, Joe, Dhananjay, Anupuma, Monika, Varsha, Mishra, goud, Sheeba, Ramam, Subba Rao and all others for rendering help and keeping a lively atmosphere. The support provided by Suryanarayana, Ram Prakash, and Inder D Mali in making litres of media and the help of Ashok, Jagan, Vishwanadham, Chandrasekhar and "Hanif in many other forms has been of immense value in executing the experiments quickly and smoothly.

I am extremely thankful to (Dr. % Thangaraj, Nagesh and Jasmeet for all the help in automated sequencing and the use of related software. I would also like to thank Lavanya for typing my thesis very patiently right from the first draft to the final draft.

It would take more than just a few words over here to express how indebted I am to my friends, Srikant ('Daddy'), Balamurugan, Niranjan, Rekha, Angelena, Mehar, Uma, Lavanya and Brinda for standing by my side through the thick and thin of my Ph.D. career. They truly reflect, "A friend in need is a friend indeed".

No words can adequately express the indebtedness, which I owe to my respectable parents, sisters, brother and all the other family members. Their benevolence and profound affection encouraged me to compile this work. Tanu was always with me, in distress and happiness during the entire tenure of my Ph.D.

Finally, I thankfully acknowledge the financial support provided by CSIR in the form of Junior Research fellowship and Senior Research fellowship.