ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I fervently record my heartfelt thanks to the Almighty for blessing me with His grace and guiding me in the right part of success. Words will not adequately bring out the gratitude that overwhelms my heart and the deep sense of appreciation that I have for Dr. T. Citarasu, M. Sc., M. Phil., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Centre for Marine Science and Technology, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Rajakkamangalam who spend many precious hours to enhance for the quality of the thesis. His constant encouragement, invaluable guidance, motivation, unfailing cooperation and keen interest evinced in my work, helped me to complete the thesis.

I owe my sincere thanks to Dr. S. L. Sasikala, Professor and Head, Centre for Marine Science and Technology, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Rajakkamangalam for her encouragement necessary guidance during the course of this study.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. S. G. Prakash Vincent, Associate Professor, Dr. S. Mary Josephine Punitha, Dr. M. Micheal Babu, Dr. G. Immanuel, Dr. M. Krishnaveni, Assistant Professors, Centre for Marine Science and Technology, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Rajakkamangalam for their good suggestions and kind help.

I earnestly thank Soosai M. Boustine, Centre for Marine Science and Technology, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Rajakkamangalam for her support and timely help. I wish to express my sincere thanks to Dr. A. Palavesam, Professor and Head, Department of Animal science and Zoology, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Abishekappatti for his suggestions and kind help.
I express my heartfelt thanks to A. P. Lipton, Emeritus Professor, Centre for Marine Science and Technology M.S. University Rajakkamangalam for his suggestion and kind help.

I owe a lot to my parents Mr. C. Thanga Mani and Mrs. K. Daisy, my wife Mr. D. Beula Shiny, my sister, T. Gayathri and my son K. Dharshan and my family members who gave encouraged and supported me throughout the period of my study.

I wish to express my hearty ever blooming thanks to my dear friends Dr. S. Velmurugan and Ms. M. Birdilla Selva Donio, Full Time Research Scholars, CMST, who helped me a lot in every step of my research work. I wish to thank my unit Research Scholars especially Dr. V. ThangaViji, Mr. P. Palani Kumar, Dr. F. Bindhu, Mrs. J. Adlin Jenifer, Mr. C. Lelin, Mr. E. Thirumalai kumar, T. R. Shanila, D. Daffni Benitta, A. P. S. Abinaya CMST, Rajakkamangalam, Mrs Dr. Dhanya, Assistant Professor and Head Department of Microbiology, Noorul Islam College, Kumarakovil for their support throughout this research.

I express my thanks to Mr. K. Raman, Mr. N. Jerin, Mrs. A. Jenista Mary and all my other friends for their kind help. I wish to express my sincere thanks to Dr. T. Selvaraj, Dr. S. Albindhas, Dr. Rajeshkannan, Dr. M. Navin Chandran, Dr. P. Esakkiraj, Mr. A. Muthamil Iniyan CMST, for their support and timely help.

I would like to express my thanks to Mr. R. Alphonse Reegan, Mr. R. Thanulingam, Lab Assistant and Non-Teaching Staff of CMST, Rajakkamangalam. Any omission there is in spite of every effort acknowledges the help in advertent.

Kumaran T.