

Acknowledgement

I am eternally grateful to GOD for bestowing his choicest blessings on me throughout the course of my study.

It is with a deep sense of gratitude that I remember numerous individuals and institutions that helped me to complete this work successfully. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to University Grants Commission for granting the financial assistance for my doctoral programme and am very much thankful to the Management of S. N. Trusts Colleges, for their kind consent given for my research.

The lion's share of my heart-felt gratitude goes to my research guide Dr. D. Sheela, Associate Professor, Department of Botany, St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam, who was always with me throughout my work-cheerfully encouraging, supporting, helping, suggesting and most importantly exacting and demanding excellence. Her insatiable hunger for quality work kept me on my toes and inspired me to produce something up to her expectations. My sincere thanks to the Principal, St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam and staff of Botany department, for providing all facilities for my research and keeping a warm and friendly working environment.

A good support system is important for surviving and performing well. I was lucky to be a part of Department of Botany, Sree Narayana College, Nattika and am proud of the concern of the Principal, Head of Department, teaching and non teaching staff of Department of Botany especially Dr. A.R. Raju, Dr. C.T. Anitha, Dr. M.P. Subin, Dr. Chitra G, Dr. M. Binumol, Dr. Abhilash E.S and Smt Sheeja P. Parayil for their good wishes and enthusiasm. It would be a long list to mention all the colleagues I am indebted to.

I am also grateful to the ICAR Institute, C.I.F.T, Wellington Island, Kochi for providing me the requisite testing facilities and support for carrying out my work. I would like to remember with great affection Dr. P.T. Lakshmanan, Principal Scientist & Head, Biochemistry and Nutrition Division, C.I.F.T, Kochi for his valuable suggestions and guidance. A special mention goes to Dr P.N. Joshi, my brother, former Principal Scientist & Head, Engg. Division, C.I.F.T., who first sparked me the importance of doing research.

I am deeply indebted to my mentor Dr. Nabeesa Salim, former Head, Department of Botany, University of Calicut, who encouraged me to think more independently about my experiments and results and also for her scientific advice. A special mention goes for her extremely thorough examination of my thesis and for many constructive suggestions.

I remember the invaluable help and suggestions given by Dr. A. B Remashree, Deputy Director, Drugs Standardization Divn., Centre for Medicinal Plant Research, Kottakkal. It is my fortune that the fruitful cooperation of Nisha Madam, Head, Library and Documentation Divn., Kerala Agricultural University, Mannuthy for collecting literature and references. The co-operation in compiling this work rendered by Ms Aneesha, Geethu, Chikku, Navya, Miji, Divya, Parvathy and Mr. Jerin is also remembered with gratitude.

My sincere gratitude also goes to Dr. Binda Vasudevan, Associate Professor, S.N College, Nattika, Dr. Balasubramaniam, Senior Scientist (Retd), KFRJ, Peechi, Dr. P. N Ganesh, Associate Professor, Sree Krishna College, Guruvayoor and Dr. K. Joshi, Associate Professor (Retd), S. N. M. College, Maliankara for the preliminary correction of the final part of the thesis. I also thank Mr. Binoop, Indus Photos, Cochin University Campus for compiling and binding the thesis.

Finally my sincere thanks goes to my wife Mrs.Lali, son Mr. Pranav and Daughter Ms. Pavithra for being with me even when I was irritable and depressed and helped me to make my research easy and enjoyable and strengthened my commitment and determination for past several years.

Remesh K. N.