

8. SCOPE FOR FUTURE WORK

The present research work can be further extended as given below:

1. As discussed in chapter 3, sub-micellar concentration of SDS was shown to prevent thermal-induced aggregation of jacalin by transforming it into a α -helical structure. Apart from screening for other additives, it would be worthwhile to further investigate the jacalin-SDS interaction and to determine if they interact directly or via any bridging molecule. Also, the potential of SDS to increase the conformational stability of other commercially important proteins can be investigated upon.
2. The present work paves the way for more detailed understanding of alternate mechanisms underlying the mitogenic facet of lectins. Further, it would be interesting to investigate the mitogenic effects of jacalin under *in vivo* conditions and to identify its natural ligand.
3. As lectins form an inevitable part of our diet, the *in vitro* immunomodulatory effects of jacalin on PBMCs isolated from blood of a normal donor were analyzed. However, based on the preliminary outcome observed in the present research work, it would be noteworthy to examine the immunomodulatory effects of jacalin *in vivo*.