

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

It is my privilege to express the deep sense of gratitude to my supervising guide Dr.(Sr.) Avita, Professor (Retd.), Department of Botany, St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam, for her valuable guidance, timely suggestions and constant encouragement without which this work would not have been completed.

I am indebted to Rev. Sr. Chistabelle, Principal, St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam for her constant support and encouragement during the course of my study.

I owe a debt of gratitude to Rev. Sr. Tessa, former principal of St. Teresa's College, for her unreserved help and support throughout the period of my research work.

My heartfelt thanks are due to Dr.(Sr.) Merlee Teresa M.V., Reader (Retd.), Department of Botany, St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam for her valuable suggestions and encouragements.

I wish to place on special record, my sincere thanks to the librarians and staff of Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), Cochin, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), and School of Environmental Studies, Cochin University of Science and Technology, for their co-operation and help.

I am extremely grateful to Dr. T.V. Sankar, Senior Scientist, Biochemistry Division, Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), Cochin, for availing me the laboratory facilities for biochemical analysis.

With deep sense of gratitude I acknowledge Dr. Sobhan Kumar, Agroprocessing Unit, Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Trivandrum and Dr. N.S. Pradeep, Phylogenetic and Molecular Division, Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (TBGRI), Palode, Trivandrum, for their help and co-operation in the phytochemical and molecular analyses.

I am thankful to Dr. C.I. Jolly, Scientific Advisor, Kerala Ayurveda Pharmacy (KAPL) Limited, Athani, Aluva and Mr. Adity Deo, D.V. Deo Industries, Kalamassery, Kochi, for their valuable suggestions and help in the pharmacognostic studies.

I express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Liza Jacob, Lecturer, Department of Botany, St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam for the kind consideration and valuable help.

Thanks are due to my colleagues at St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam for their constant encouragement and warm companionship.

I thank the University Grants Commission for granting me fellowship under the Faculty Improvement Programme.

I express my sincere gratitude to my beloved parents, my brother-in-law Mr. Jose K.K. Regional Manager, Jupiter Trading Company, Kochi and my sister Dr. Merlin Jose, Research Associate, Department of Applied Economics, CUSAT, Kochi, for their wholehearted support and encouragement throughout this work.

I owe a special debt of gratitude to my husband Dr. Sunny George, HUDCO Chair Professor, Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA), Thrissur and my children George Sunny and Anu Sunny for their sincere co-operation, encouragement and constant support.

Above all I thank Almighty God for the blessings showered upon me through the tenure of this work.

***Elsam Joseph***