ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to place in record my gratitude to Dr. Baby Chacko, Professor, Department of Botany, Sr.Berchman's College, Changanacherry for his valuable guidance and constant encouragement throughout the period of this investigation. I remain forever indebted to him for the help rendered in many thoughtful ways.

My sincere thanks to Dr. K.K. Seethalakshmi, Sr. Scientist, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi, Thrissur for her valuable suggestions and discussions from the beginning to the end of my work and also for providing plant materials.

I am specially indebted to Dr. Y.R. Sharma, Head, Plant Protection, IISR, Calicut for his endless encouragement and support.

I am particularly grateful to the teaching staff of the Department of Botany and also Principal of the college for providing the facility for research work.

I wish to express my profound sense of gratitude to Mrs. Sarojam, Assistant Librarian, K.F.R.I. and also Mr. George, Technical Assistant in Library for their kind co-operation and help in the Library work.

I am thankful to Dr. Ramasree, Sr. Research fellow, I I.S.R. Calicut and Mrs. T.P.Sreeja, Sr. Research fellow for their sincere help in compiling the thesis. Deep felt gratitude is expressed towards all my friends who have given scores of help throughout the present work.

My sincere thanks to Mr. Kishor Patel, Artist cum photographer, I I.S.R., Calicut for his help and co-operation in the preparation of Photographs.

I am also thankful to Mrs. Lalitha, MegaSoft computer solutions, Thampanoor, Trivandrum for typesetting of this thesis.

And finally, I am always indebted to my family members for the patience they have shown and for the constant encouragement and support they have given throughout these years.

Shaji Philip