ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude and sincere acknowledgements to my supervisor Prof. K.J. Thara Saraswathi, Department of Microbiology and Biotechnology, Bangalore University, Bangalore, for her invaluable guidance, constant supervision and benevolent encouragement throughout the course of the research work.

I am thankful to Prof. K. Manjunath, Chairman of the Department, Prof. S. K. Sarangi, Prof. S. Chidananda Sharma, and Prof. D. Manjula Kumari and all faculty members of the Department of Microbiology and Biotechnology, Bangalore University for their encouragement during the course of this work.

A special gratitude to Dr. Shivakameshwari M. N., Department of Botany, Bangalore University, for her timely help in many ways during my entire research work.

With deep sense of gratitude, I thank Dr. M.U. Sharief, Scientist, BSI, Dr Gopal Rao Mallavarapu, Ex-Scientist-in-Charge, CIMAP, Bangalore, Mr. Ravikumar, IWST, Bangalore, Prof. Afzal Pasha, Department of Chemistry, Bangalore University for their true, illuminating views on various aspects of my research.

I would like to express my gratitude to my parents and parents-in-law for their prayers, patience and unquestioning support to my entire effort.

I thank my husband, Mr. Prasanna Kumar M.K. for his encouragement, love, support and my sister, Ms. Devika R. who has lent her wonderful support whenever required which was important to get me to this point.

I cherish the help and support of all my friends and research colleagues Ms. Chandrika R., Ms. Jayalakshmi N.R., Ms. Vinutha M., Ms. Babitha B. and Ms.
Srilatha K. for their help and co-operation without which it would have been difficult for me to complete the thesis work.

My sincere thanks are also due to all the non-teaching staff of the Department of Microbiology and Biotechnology, Bangalore University for their excellent co-operation throughout the course of the work.

I am thankful to all those who either directly or indirectly contributed in various ways for the successful completion of this research work.

Vyshali P.