ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am thankful to ‘God almighty’, through whose blessings I have been able to find solutions in difficult circumstances, and successfully complete this work.

I like to express my gratitude, to my esteemed guide, Dr. John Joseph, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, Sacred Heart College, Thevara, for his scholarly guidance, supervision and valuable suggestions at each and every step.

I extend my thanks to the Principal and Management, Sacred Heart College, Thevara, for granting me permission to do research in this prestigious institution.

I would like to thank Prof. Samson Davis, Head of the Department of Zoology, for the encouragement and assistance given to me. I am also grateful to the faculty, Department of Zoology, Sacred Heart College, Thevara, for their valuable advice, which helped me much in my research work. With much gratitude I acknowledge the sincere co-operation and help of the non-teaching staff of the Department of Zoology.

I express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to Dr. B. Ganesan, Technical Officer, Biochemistry and Nutrition Division CIFT for his constant inspiration, excellent guidance, personal encouragement, constructive criticisms and timely suggestions for the manuscript during the course of this research work.
My sincere thanks are to Dr. K.C George, Retd. Sr. Scientist, Department of Pathology, CMFRI Kochi, for guiding me with his valuable suggestions and help in every possible way.

My heartfelt thank to Retd. Prof. Thomas Thiruthanathy, Department of English, Sacred Heart College, Thevara, for his valuable guidance and suggestions.

I also express my heartfelt appreciation to Manju V. Subramanian, and to all the fellow researchers in the Department, for lending me a helping hand, directly or indirectly, in the completion of the study.

I am extremely grateful to the administrative staff of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) Kochi and CUSAT Marine Science Library.

Words cannot express my heartfelt gratitude to my family members for bearing with me all the inconveniences in the course of completion of this work. I am grateful to each and every one of my family for their valuable prayers.

Rekha Parthasarathy