ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To achieve success of the work, proper approach, inspiration and excellent guidelines are indispensable. I was able to carry out and complete this research work on time, only with the help, cooperation and goodwill of many people, to whom I will be forever indebted. I express my heartfelt gratitude and indebtedness to my respectful teacher and guide Dr. (Sr.) Avita, Associate Professor in Botany, St. Teresa’s College, Kochi for suggesting this problem, and for her inspiring guidance and support.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. (Sr.) Tresa, Principal, St. Teresa’s College, Kochi and Dr. Elsam Joseph, Head, Department of Botany, St. Teresa’s College, Kochi for their unreserved help and support and for providing all the facilities to carry out this work. I am indebted to Rev. (Sr.) Christaballe, former principal, St. Teresa’s College, Kochi for her constant encouragement and support. I am grateful to all the teaching and non teaching staff members of the Department of Botany, St. Teresa’s College, Kochi.

It is my great privilege to express my deep hearted sincere thanks, sense of gratitude and respect to Dr. K. Murugan, Associate Professor, Department of Botany, University College, Thiruvananthapuram for his inspiring and untiring help throughout the project. I am also thankful for his constant encouragement and bounteous co-operation. This work would not have been complete and possible without the valuable guidance and support of him.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to, Mr. Sunu Kumar. S. S, Mr. Harish. S. R, Mr. G. S. Manoj, Mrs. Sajitha Rajan. S, Miss. Remya Krishnan and Mrs. Shilpa Satheesh, Research Scolars, Plant Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Lab, Department of Botany, University College, Thiruvananthapuram for providing their lab facilities. With out these exceptionally helpful people my entire work wont be possible and also to Mr. Arun Anand. A, who sincerely helped me doing my entire thesis preparation.

I am also thankful to Mr. K. Rajeev, Head of the Department of Botany, University College, Thiruvananthapuram; Dr. M. S. Francis, Sr. Lecturer, and Dr. (Sr.) Meritta,
Mrs. Manju and Mr. Jinu Joseph, Department of Botany, Sacred Heart College, Thevara; Dr. T. V. Sankar, Senior Scientist, Biochemical Division, GIF, Kochi; Dr. Liza Jacob, Associate Professor, St. Teresa's College, Kochi; the research scholars, CUSAT, Kochi; Principal, Government Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram and the Librarian, Kerala Agricultural University, Vellayani, for providing lab and library facilities.

My heartfelt thanks to my father ret. Prof. S. Gauthaman, my mother, L. Nirmala (ret.Principal), my sisters and my parents-in-law Mr. Sukumaran and Mrs. Surajambika who were constantly encouraging and supporting me during the entire course.

At last but not least, I am very much deeply indebted to my husband Mr. Sujesh. K. S (Sr. Mgr, Idea Tel Comm, Karnataka), for his bounteous support and help during the entire period of my work and my son baby Vibaan sujesh, for his full cooperation and immense patience during the course of this work.

Above all, I express my gratitude to God Almighty for blessings showered upon me to complete the work in time.

Sreelekshmi S G