Acknowledgement

I have worked with a great number of people whose contribution in assorted ways to the research and the making of the thesis deserves special mention.

Foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my guide Dr. Rosamma Philip, Senior lecturer, Dept. of Marine Biology, Microbiology and Biochemistry, Cochin University of Science and Technology for her perfect guidance, inspiring discussions, valuable suggestions, constant encouragement, critical evaluation and unfailing moral support. Her guidance helped me in all the time of research and I could not have imagined having a better advisor and mentor for my research program.

I am extremely thankful to Prof. Aneykutty Joseph, Head of the Department of Marine Biology, Microbiology and Biochemistry for her valuable help and support during the period of my research.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. H.S. Ram Mohan, Director, School of Marine Sciences for allowing me to utilize the facilities of the School of Marine Sciences. My thanks are due to Dr. K. Mohan Kumar, Former Dean, Faculty of Marine Sciences for his inspiring suggestions, encouragement and timely advice.

It is my pleasant duty to express my gratefulness and sincere thanks to Dr.I.S. Bright Singh, Professor, School of Environmental Studies, CUSAT for the facilities that he kindly made available to me throughout my research.

I wish to express my warm and sincere thanks to Dr. Babu Philip for the expert advice and valuable suggestions rendered during the period of my research work. I gratefully acknowledge Dr. A.V.Saramma, for all the help and encouragement rendered throughout the period of study. I wholeheartedly thank Dr. Mohamed Hatha and Dr. Bijoy Nandan for their valuable help and suggestions.

I thank administrative staff of the Dept. of Marine Biology for offering support and timely help.

The assistance received from the Library staff of School of Marine Sciences is gratefully acknowledged.

I thank the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for the financial help offered to me as Junior and Senior Research Fellowships.

I am sincerely grateful to Dr. P.M. Sheriff, Fisheries College Panangad for valuable help and suggestions.

I gratefully acknowledge the facilities provided by STIC, CIFT and NIO Cochin for the analysis of various samples.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Douglas Lowman for the NMR analysis of yeast glucan. I am also grateful to Mr. Steve Nelson, Trader’s Protein, USA for providing various crude samples for my work.
I record my gratitude to Mrs Bindhu, Technical staff, School of Industrial Fisheries and also researchers at the Dept. of Chemical Oceanography for their valuable and timely help.

I sincerely thank my senior colleagues Dr. Sarlin P.J., Dr. Maya Paul, Dr. Sincy Joseph, Dr. Sajeevan T.P., Dr. Selven S., Dr. Lakshmi G. Nair, Mrs. Annies Joseph for their immense and valuable help and timely advice during the initial stages of my work.

Special thanks to my M.Sc class mates, Mr. Neil, Mr. Febin, Ms. Annie Feby, Ms. Divya Daniel Ms. Dhanya Balakrishnan, Ms. Priyaja P., Ms. Vrinda S. for helping me in all possible ways through my study at CUSAT.

I deeply appreciate the extreme sincerity, assistance and help rendered by my friends Mrs. Sreedevi N. Kutty and Ms. Manjusha K. I specially thank them for the sincere efforts they have put in for the completion of my thesis.

Mere words of thanks will be inadequate for the timely help and concern rendered by my friends Ms. Swapna P. Antony, Mr. Abhilash K.R and Mr. Manoj P. A debt is also owed to Mr. Sunesh Thampy for his timely and generous help.

I extend my sincere thanks to my friends in the Dept. of Marine Biology, Ms. Smitha V. Bhanu, Mr. Anil Kumar, P.R., Mr. Harisankar, Ms. Prabha, Ms. Shameeda, Ms. Remya Varadarajan, Ms. Jisha V.K., Ms. Sini P.J., Ms. Smitha S.L., Ms. Jisha Jose, Ms. Deepthi Augustine, Ms. Gilcy George, Ms. Divya P.S., Ms. Deborah Alexander, Mr. Shubankar Ghosh, Ms. Jimly C.J., Ms. Remya K.D and Mr. Anit. M. Thomas for their help and support.

I wish I would never forget the help rendered by my dearest friend and colleague Ms. Sunitha Pouluse. I am deeply indebted to her for her whole hearted assistance and unfailing support offered throughout.

I also thank all the researchers at National Centre for Aquatic Animal Health for helping me throughout my research period. Especially I would like to mention Dr. Valsamma Joseph, Dr. Somnath Pai, Dr. Rejish Kumar, Mr. Sreedharan, Dr. Manju N.J. for all the suggestions and help rendered. I am also thankful to Mr. Deepesh, Ms. Deepa, Mr. Jayesh, Ms. Archana, Ms. Divya Jose, Ms. Surekha I.S., Ms. Ammu Thomas, Ms. Rose Mary, Mr. Ranjit Kanjoor, and the technical staff at NCAAH.

My heart-felt thanks to my room mates Ms. Anu Philip, Ms. Manju Shan, Ms. Lucky George, Ms. Jini Jacob for their timely and dedicated help.

I would like to thank everybody who was important to the successful realization of thesis, as well as express my apology to those I could not mention it personally.

I cannot end without thanking my parents for rendering me constant encouragement and enormous support during the whole tenure of my research. The present venture would not have been fulfilled without the genuine interest, love and sacrifice of my parents. I feel extremely blessed to have them and words fail to
express my feelings. My sincere gratitude and admiration towards my brothers for their kind thoughtfulness, care and concern. Bijoy and Jikku, thanks for being very supportive and caring siblings. The prayers and blessings of my dear grandfather Mr. P.J.Thomas, Panjikunnel is gratefully acknowledged. The moral support and encouragement given to me by my uncles, aunts and dear cousins is also fondly remembered.

I thank God Almighty for assigning me this work and helping me throughout for its successful completion.

Simi Joseph P.