OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESENT STUDY
Microorganisms such as bacteria and fungi are very important in the functioning of the ecosystems. They also play significant roles in various biotechnological processes such as natural products, pollution control, genetic engineering and production of transgenic plants and animals which are of great use to mankind. Hence, it is very important to study their occurrence, diversity and ecobiology. When compared with terrestrial ecosystems, marine ecosystems are not well explored for fungi (Hawksworth, 1991).

Information on the occurrence, distribution and ecology of marine fungi of the Indian sub-continent, especially from the Oceanic islands such as Lakshadweep Islands, Maldive Islands, Andaman and Nicobar Islands is very scanty (see general introduction). Therefore the present study was carried out to achieve the following objectives:

1. Taxonomy of marine fungi collected from mangrove ecosystems of Indian sub-continent.
2. Distribution and occurrence of marine fungi of Indian sub-continent including the Oceanic islands such as Lakshadweep Islands, Maldive Islands, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
3. Host specificity of marine fungi.
4. Seasonal occurrence of marine fungi from mangroves.
5. Frequency of marine fungi on mangroves.

7. Succession and colonization of marine fungi on different parts of mangroves.

8. Effect of salinity on the vegetative growth of fungi isolated from mangroves.

9. Colonization of marine fungi on commercial timbers both treated and untreated, submerged in the estuarine and mangrove environment.