ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am deeply indebted to my supervising teacher Dr. M. Gokuldas, Professor and Head, Department of Zoology, University of Calicut, for his inspiring guidance and valuable suggestions, without which it would not have been possible to complete the present work.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. D. J. Candy, School of Biochemistry, University of Birmingham, U. K and to Dr. D. Kodrik, Institute of Entomology, Academy of Sciences, Brinisovsca, Czech Republic for providing synthetic adipokinetic neuropeptides, Schgr-AKH-II and Pyrap-AKH for this investigation. I also express my sincere gratitude to Dr. G. Gaede, University of Cape Town, South Africa, for his valuable suggestions.

I am grateful to Dr. K. Sudheer, Assistant Curator, Department of Zoology, University of Calicut for the identification of experimental insects. I am also thankful to Y. K. Subrahmanyam Prakash and Sunita Prakash, Molecular Biophysics Unit, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore for mass spectrometric analysis.

I feel happy to record and extend my heartfelt thanks to the following persons who have made the completion of this work possible: Dr. Raghu, Hashim and Satheesh George, Centre for Medicinal Plant Research Centre, Kottakkal, Kerala, India for their helps in HPLC analysis. Dr. Sachidanandan, Rajeev Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Tiruvananthapuram, Dr. Brijesh, IISc, Bangalore and Santhosh S. Department of Zoology, University of Calicut, for their valuable helps in mass spectral analysis. I also express my thanks to Prakash, Deputy Director, Coffee board; C. A. Ajesh, Department of History, University of Calicut for the collection of coffee locusts.

I express my gratitude to V. S. Binitha, C. S. Shalini, Dr. K. Ismail, Tanuja David, V. Nithya, K. Mashoor, N. Sajitha, P. Reshma, Seena Narayanan, Brinesh, Research Fellows of Depatment of the Zoology and to Mr. P. P. Praveenkumar, Research Fellow, RGCB, Tiruvananthapuram for their helps during the course of study.

Financial assistance by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi is gratefully acknowledged.

I wish to record my thanks to the staff of Bina Photostat for DTP of this work.

AJAYKUMAR. A. P.