Acknowledgement

Five years pass so quickly when you do something you enjoy and are among the people you like. Now as I'm finalizing my thesis and may be leaving, I'll miss a lot of things, but above all I'll miss the friendly atmosphere. I therefore would like to thank all colleagues at the National Institute of Oceanography. Though there are some people about whom I would like to pen a few more words about.

First of all I want to thank my Research Guide, Dr. S. Raghukumar, Scientist, National Institute of Oceanography, who inspite of his very tight schedule found time to discuss all upcoming problems and sometimes my stupid questions. His endless excitement over new findings and new ideas has stimulated me to go on working. I've been privileged to have a supervisor with such a broad area of knowledge. I would also thank Dr. Chandralata Raghukumar, Scientist, National Institute of Oceanography, for helping and advising me throughout my tenure. Ma'm you not only shared responsibilities in sir's life, but also his students.

I want to thank Dr. Satish R. Shetye, Director, National Institute of Oceanography and also the former Director, Dr. E. Deso for giving me an opportunity to work in the institute and be associated with it.

I extend my thanks to Dr. R. N. Tharanathan, Scientist, CFTRI, Mysore, for guiding me in the biochemical studies of EPS. I would also like to acknowledge the help provided by Dr. Ramesh Aggarwal, Scientist, CCMB, Hyderabad, for carrying out the work on molecular taxonomy. I like to thank Dr. N. B. Bhosle, Scientist, NIO for clearing my doubts during the initial studies on EPS.

I am also indebted to my FRC committee members: Dr. G N Nayak, Head Department Marine Science, Goa University, Co-Guide Dr. Sanjeev Ghadi, Goa University, and VC's nominee Dr. N. Ramaiah, Scientist, NIO for their critical and valuable reviews. I extend my thanks to Dr. D.J. Bhat, Head, Department of Botany for helping and advising me throughout my tenure.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. M.P. Tapaswi, Head Librarian, for providing some important research articles in time. I am grateful to Mr. Arun Mahale, Mr. Uchil and staff of DTP section to help me out in making some of the figure presentable in this thesis.

Staying and working at Mysore and Hyderabad would have been lonely, if not for Parvati, Anil, Vishu and Rachappaji from CFTRI and Prasanna, Prasad, Raman, Amtrita, Anjali, Ashraf, Krishna, Velevan and Phanendra from CCMB.

Friends in working place are very important as they not only discuss your scientific problems, create a light working environment and help to tide over difficult times and help in inumerable ways. I therefore, thank Bhaskar, Fraddy, Vishwakiran, JaySankar De,
Shashank, Sini, Samir, Varada, Sonali, Dasu, Vinda, Catherin, Ramesh, Sanjay, Sumitha, Usha, Sheetal, Asha and Sree. I am sure I have missed out a lot of names, but I would like you all to know that this thesis would have been impossible but for you.

I have no words to express for my Amma, Appa, Bhaiya and Bhabhi. I could never dream of doing a PhD without your help, support, encouragement, love, and patience. Thanks for believing in me. I also owe special thanks to B. Anand Rao and Mahendra Deshmukh.

I want to express my thanks to Sadik Sayeed for teaching me to take things easy in life and for your patience with me. Last but not the least, I would like to thank Deepak for helping and supporting me for my future endeavor.

Ruchi Jain