Acknowledgement

I am extremely grateful and deeply indebted to Dr. Archana Mehta, Lecturer, Department of Botany, Dr. Hari Singh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar for having rendered her continuous guidance, encouragement and untiring help during the course of this investigation. It is my good fortune and luck that I had the opportunity to work under such an excellent guide.

I express my sincere thanks to Professor T.R. Sahu, Head of the Department of Botany, Dr. Hari Singh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar, not only for providing research facilities but also for his keen interest and encouragement. I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to him.

I am thankful to Dr. Anjana Sharma, Reader, Department of Biological Sciences, Rani Durgavati University, Jabalpur, for her valuable help, excellent suggestions and for providing some facilities to identify the bacterial species.

I must also acknowledge deep appreciation and keen interest of Professor Pradeep Mehta, Department of Botany and also for his ever welcoming attitude for sorting out problems at odd times.

I am grateful to Professor S. C. Agrawal, Head, Department of Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology, Dr. Hari Singh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar for providing some facilities during the course of this work.
I have great pleasure in expressing my indebtedness to Professor A.D. Adoni, Dr. A. S. Mishra Reader, Dr. Pradeep Tiwari and all the teachers of the Botany Department for their support and propitious suggestions.

My sincere thanks also goes to Dr. S. N. Limaye, Reader, Department of Chemistry, Dr. Hari Singh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar for his kind help.

My thanks are reserved for my colleague, Archana Singh and friends Deepti Tiwari, Richa Tiwari, Ashish Vyas and Shailendra Rajput for their emulous help all through my work.

On my personal note, I record my profound sense of gratefulness and indebtedness to my husband Mr. Ferosh Kumar, Akshara Ferosh (5-year old daughter) and all my family members who shouldered the responsibility for my educational career and gave me moral support. It is they who partake more of the joy from my success than I.

I take an opportunity to record my thanks to all the non-teaching staff of the Department for their co-operation.

My thanks also remain due for those who have helped me knowingly or unknowingly in various ways to complete my research work successfully.

Last but certainly not the least I wish to thank Mr. Patra, Professional Computers, Civil Lines, Sagar for doing excellent computational work.

Place: Sagar
Date: 21/7/2003

Sindhu Ferosh

21/7/2003