Acknowledgement

The successful completion of thoughtful search endeavour is due to combined encouragement of numerous individuals who have been constantly inspired and motivated me throughout this study.

With deep gratitude, I acknowledge the great debt I owe to my Guide, Dr. Santosh Kumar Dubey, for his admirable endurance, guidance, patience and encouragement given to me during the entire period of research. His scientific experience and vast knowledge of the subject, innovative ideas and constructive criticisms have contributed immensely to my research work.

I am thankful to Prof. D.J. Bhat, Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences and Prof P.V. Desai, H.O.D., Department of Zoology, for extending all the facilities during my research work. I am also grateful to the entire teaching and non-teaching staff of Department of Microbiology, Marine Biotechnology and Zoology for their unconditional help and co-operation.

My sincere gratitude to Prof. S. Mavinkurve, Ex. H.O.D. Microbiology, Dr Saroj Bhosle, Dr Sandeep Garg and Prof. U. M. X. Sangodkar for their immense assistance, valuable criticism which helped me to gather thorough knowledge of the subject.

I acknowledge the financial support provided by Dept. of Ocean Development and CSIR, New Delhi as JRF & SRF, to complete the project. A special thank goes to Prof. S. Suzuki, Ehime University, Japan, for 16s rRNA analysis of a bacterial strain. I also thank to Dr. Shrinivasan, Dr. Tilve (Goa University), Dr N.B. Bhosle (NIO) and Supriya for helping me in identification of degradation product of TBTC.

I am highly obliged for the zeal, enthusiasm and encouragement provided by Dr. Chanda Parulekar, Deepa Nair, Dr. Trupti Rawte, Dr. Judith Bragança, Aureen Godhino, Madhan Raghavan and Vikrant Berde throughout my study.

I am immensely grateful to Naveen Krishnamurthy, Uncle, Aunty and Dr D. Majumdar & family for their endless support. It is very difficult to forget the attention and care I received from them.
Words seem to be inadequate to express my gratitude to certain people who have been instrumental in helping me at every stage of my research. They are Nimali, Celisa, Girija, Beena, Meenal, Samir, Varada, Donna, Vimal, Manish, T. Srinath, Anutosh, Jay, Shashank, Bhaskar, Saieesh, Asha, Archana, Soumitra, Nagarajuna, Sandeep, Raghu, Geeta, Ana, Saraswati, Dr. Mohandas, Bramha, Krishnamurthy, Neelam, Prateek, Dr. Anita Das, Suneeta B., Sunita K. and many more.

Though we don’t thank each other too much, but still I wish to thank my brother, Protyay, whose constant concern and advice made me complete my work faster. My sincere thanks also go to my sister Rasika who is too sweet and appreciating.

I wish to dedicate this work to my parents, because what I achieved till the date is only due to their love and blessings. They are my constant inspiration.

I have successfully compiled my creative and thoughtful research due to genuine concern and painstaking effort of many more well wishers whose names are not mentioned, but they are still in my heart. So, reward is surely worth for their efforts. Finally I am indeed indebted to the people and place, “Goa”.

Upal