ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As completing a Ph.D. thesis is truly a “Test” match, and I would not have been able to survive this test without the help and support of numerous people over the past five years. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge them and extend my sincere gratitude for helping me in making this Ph.D. thesis a possibility.

I express my deep and heartfelt sincere gratitude to my research guide, Dr. J. R. Bandekar, Head, Food Microbiology and Sea Food Technology section for his sustained interest, constructive criticism, encouragement, motivation, support and guidance in various forms, without which this work would not have reached its completion. He patiently provided the vision, encouragement and advice necessary for me to proceed through the doctoral program and complete my dissertation.

It is also my great pleasure to thank Dr. S. K. Apte, Dean, Life Sciences, HBNI for his encouragement and support in carrying out the research work.

It is my great privilege to extent my sincere gratitude to Dr. A. K. Sharma, Head, Food Technology Division and Chairman, Doctoral Committee for his encouragement, moral support and valuable guidance, which inspired me to do my best. I am also grateful to Dr. S. P. Kale, Head, TT&CD, Dr. H. S. Misra, Head, Molecular Genetics Section and Dr. B. B. Nayak, Central Institute of Fisheries Education, members of my doctoral committee for providing valuable suggestions for the completion of this work.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. Shashidhar R., FTD for giving critical suggestions while doing the experiments and also while writing the thesis. I am also very grateful to Dr. S. N. Jamdar who has been extremely supportive and encouraging during the course of my research work.
I would also like to thank my friends and colleagues Sachin Hajare, Bibhuti Misra, Ashish Srivastava and Dr. M. N. Karani for their constant support and providing constructive suggestions throughout the work.

My heartfelt thanks to my friends and fellow labmates Dr. Sunil, Dr. Amol, Dr. Shibani, Dr. Venkat, Dr. Hiren, Lipika and Namrata for their steady encouragement and vital contribution in some aspects of the work carried out during these studies.

I also wish to thank my lab colleagues Rajkamal, Aarti, Kalpana, Vaishali and Shabbir for their timely help and support. I am also indebted to all my FTD colleagues, staff members and project trainees for their support at different times.

I am immensely indebted to all of my friends especially Jayakumar, Yogendra, Subhash, Vikash, Sushant, Amit and Sumit for their constant and unconditional support. Last but not the least I would like to thank my parents, brother and wife, Amee for their motivation and for being with me at all times.

Most importantly, I thank the Almighty for all the blessings and strength he endowed me during the research programme.

I sincerely apologize for any omissions and sincerely thank all concerned.

(Vandan Nagar)