I wish to express my sincere gratitude to my Research Supervisor and teacher Prof. G. R. Janardhana, Department of Studies in Botany, Manasagangotri, Mysore-06. I am privileged to have him as my guide and for always supporting me during my postgraduate studies, for numerous conversations, ideas, valuable criticism and constructive comments on the interdisciplinary field of fungi and mycotoxins. I am indebted to him for having provided me the opportunity to start and complete my study, at the Department of Studies in Botany and Microbiology during the years 2004-2009.

I owe special thanks to Dr. Ravishankar Rai, Chairman, Department of Studies in Microbiology, Manasagangotri, Mysore-06 for providing all necessary support to carry out the work.

I immensely thank the members of my doctoral committee, Prof. K. A. Raveesha, D. O. S. in Botany, Prof. S. R. Ramesh, D. O. S. in Zoology, Prof. B.S. Vishwanath, D. O. S. in Biochemistry and Prof. Murali, D. O. S. in Biochemistry for their comments and suggestions.


I express my sincere thanks to Dr. Shubha Gopal, Dr. N. Lakshmi Devi and Dr. S. Satish, Faculty, Department of Studies in Microbiology, for their co-operation.

I wish to thank my teachers Dr. Syeda Kousar Fathima and Dr. Hemavathi for their intense encouragement for research work.

I would gratefully acknowledge my thanks to my research colleagues Dr. M. Y. Sreenivasa and Dr. Ahmed Saif Moharrem. The technical support rendered by Dr. A. P. Charith Raj is worth mentioning. I greatly thank all of them for their contributions. It has been such a pleasure to have their successful co-operation and to be a part of interesting conversations, during the course of my research.

My thanks are also due to UGC project grant / support vide sanction No. … UGC 3-15/2004 (SR) 12th January 2004 for providing me the grants to carry out the current investigation.
My thanks are also due to Prof. Bharathi P. Salimat and for providing gel documentation facilities. The technical assistance by Dr. Thippeswamy and Dr. Prasanna Kumar is remembered.

I express my warm thanks to my friends, Mr. P. K. Maheshwar, Dr. M. N. Nagendra Prasad, Ms. Midhila Padman, Mr. E. K. Dilipkumar, Mrs. C. K. Sudharani and Mrs. Vandana Yadav for their valuable inputs and great company.

I gratefully acknowledge all my friends namely, Dr. V. Lalitha, Dr. M. P. Raghavendra, Dr. D. C. Mohana, Dr. Girish Dr. Kiran, Dr. Reeth, Dr. G. R. Kavitha and Dr. N. Rajashekar for being an encouragement and for sharing good moments both, in and out of the laboratory.

I thank the personnel at the Bangalore Test House, Bangalore, Karnataka, India, for their help during my HPLC work. It was a delight to work with all of you. Particularly I appreciate Mr. Binnu Matthews for deepening my understanding on detection of fumonisins by HPLC.

My immense thanks to Mr. B. K. Harish Kumara, Research Scholar, who helped me with the technical aspects during the preparation of thesis.

My dearest thanks go to my parents, Mr. G. A. Anthony Dass and Mrs. Nirmala Dass, for their endless prayers and moral support throughout my studies. Words will not suffice to express my gratitude to them.

My heartfelt thanks to my dearest brother William Vijay Dass and sister-in-law Ruth Swaroopa, who have always been there for me.

None of this would have been possible without the endurance of my supporting husband Mr. Edwin Dhinakar and my son Master. Joy Elvin Dhinakar. I fall short of words to adequately thank them, for the role they have played in my academic and personal life. I also appreciate my mom-in-law for her support and blessings.

I finally thank one and all who played a part in the successful completion of my thesis.

Mysore
May 2010

Regina Sharmila Dass