ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The director of every individual, the originator also known as the almighty or divinity upon whose approvals and pardon I could carry out and bring in concert my labour in a successful manner. Without the blessings of divinity nothing would have been possible. Without the assistance and support of any person, any job on this earth cannot be carried out and they must be given the acknowledgment. So, for the triumphant achievement of this portion of effort, I would like to express my heartiest gratitude and profound thankfulness to my guide Dr. P. B. Mazumdar, Head, Department of Biotechnology, Assam University, Silchar for his inexhaustible assistance, precious and elite implications from time to time and providing me all the amenities to carry out my PhD work. I wish to put across my genuine thanks and profound sense of thankfulness towards my Co-guide Prof. G. D. Sharma for giving me his precious propositions that he shared from time to time with me. Also to Priyanthi L. K. Tennakoon whose research work has paved me the idea to do almost similar sort of research on tea rhizosphere microbes in South Assam, especially on nitrogen fixers.

Further, I put into words my justifiable thankfulness to my relative organization, Assam University for providing me financial support and all amenities to bring out my research work satisfactorily and prolifically devoid of any disturbance.

I affirm my thoughtful wisdom of gratefulness towards my parents, who influenced me to track higher studies. I am grateful to the almighty for the entire thing.

I am indebted to all my lab mates of Microbial and Plant Biotechnology laboratory of Biotechnology Department of Assam University for their priceless proposals and assistance.

I also put across my intense admiration towards the staffs and other teachers of the department of Biotechnology of Assam University for their invaluable suggestions.

I would like to pay my thankfulness towards Xcleris Labs. Ltd, Ahmadabad for their experimental help for 16S rDNA sequencing of some of my isolates and phylogenetic tree.
I take this prospect to thank Prof. J. Rout Dept. of Ecology, Assam University, helping me by providing her Leicas Microscopy to take the measurements of the bacterial isolates. Thanks to Prof. B. K Datta and his scholar Romila of Ecology dept. Assam University for help and support in providing the *Fusarium* strain. I am also obliged to IBSD, Imphal and to Dr. O. N. Tiwari and his assistants for providing me the amenities for GC-MS in determining the nitrogen fixing ability of the isolates. I also state my sincere appreciation towards the soil scientists of Silcoorie tea estate for providing me the opportunity with providing me the soil assessment report. Lastly I thank all persons like Suraj for his digital camera (Sony model 370) by which photos were taken and Hafsa who directly or indirectly helped me throughout the process of my research work.

Mrinal Kanti Bhattacharjee