ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I have great pleasure to express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to my respectable and beloved guide Dr. S. Ravikumar, M.Sc., M.Phil., Ph.D., Senior Lecturer in Marine Biotechnology, Division of Marine Microbiology and Medicine, Centre for Marine Science and Technology, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Rajakkamangalam, for suggesting the problem and giving invaluable and untiring guidance with a touch of human splendour. I am immensely grateful to him for his suggestions and giving me the opportunity to do research and constant encouragement throughout the present investigation.

With due respects, I wish to express my sincere thanks to Prof. Dr. K. Chockalingam, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. Nagarajan, Registrar, Prof. Dr. N. Sukumaran, Head and Dean of Science, SPKCES, Alwarkurichi, Dr. M. Ramakrishnan, Research Co-ordinator, Dr. G. Rajaram, Director of Distance and Continuing Education, Prof. Dr. T. Paramasivan, Head and Dean, Faculty of Tamil Studies, Prof. K. Sadasivan, Head and Dean, Faculty of Arts, Dr. T. Tamizhchelvam, Prof. and Head, Department of Mathematics of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Thirunelveli for providing me with adequate facilities to complete my research.

I wish to record my sincere thanks to Prof. Dr. M. Peter Marian, Head, Prof. Dr. N. Chandrasekar, Division of Coastal Mining, Prof. Dr. S. Lazarus, Emeritus Scientist, Dr. S. L. Sasikala, Reader, Dr. A. Palavesam, Reader, Dr. S. G. Prakash Vincent of Centre for Marine Science and Technology, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Rajakkamangalam and other teaching and non-teaching faculties for their support and co-operation during my course of study.
I am grateful to Dr. P. Natarajan, M.Sc., Ph.D. D.Sc., Honorary Professor, Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, University of Kerala, for his suggestions and encouragement throughout my study period.

I wish to express my thanks to Prof. Dr. K. Kathiresan, CAS in Marine Biology, Annamalai University, Parangipet, Dr. P. Gunasekaran, Co-ordinator, Genomic Sciences, M.K. University, Madurai, Prof. G. Victor Rajamanickam, Director, CARISM, SASTRA, Deemed University, Thanjavur, Dr. G. Samadhanan, Chairman, Drug and Pharmaceutical Division, Dept. of Science and Technology, New Delhi, Prof. Dr. K. Dhevendran, Head and Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, University of Kerala, Prof. Dr. (Mrs). Urmila Barros, Head, Department of Marine Biotechnology, Goa University, Goa, Dr. (Mrs). Lokha Bharathi, Scientist, National Institute of Oceanography, Goa, Dr. N. Tajuddin, Reader, Department of Microbiology, National Facility for Marine Cyanobacteria, Bharathidasan University, Trichy for providing sufficient literature and suggestions during my course of study.

My profound thanks are due to Dr. P. Anantharaman, M.Sc., M. Phil., Ph.D., Senior Lecturer, CAS in Marine Biology, Annamalai University, Dr. (Mrs). Sugantha Lakshmi Ravikumar, M.B., B.S., Stanley Hospital, Chennai, Prof. Dr. Selvin Thambiraj, M.Com., M. Phil Ph.D, Head, P.G. Department of Commerce, Dr. Godwin Wesley, Ph.D, Reader, Department of Zoology, of Scott Christian College, Nagercoil, Dr. S. Shanmugam Pillai, M.Sc., Ph.D., Head, Department of Zoology, Pioneer Kumarasamy College, Nagercoil, Mrs, Shantha Kumari Rathanadas, M.Sc., M. Phil., Former Principal, Womens Christian College, Nagercoil, Mr. P Sriranganathan, M.Sc., M.Phil, Head, Department of Chemistry, Mr. M. Karunanithi, M.Com., M.Phil., Department of Commerce, Sivanthi Aditanar, College Pillayarpuram, Mr. K. Murugan, B.Sc., Development Officer, New India Assurance Company Limited, Nagercoil, for giving me suggestions and constant encouragement throughout my study period.
Indeed I wish to thank Mr. A.S. Ranjan, M.Sc., (Agri.) and Mr. V. Balasubramanian, B.Sc. (Agri.), Agricultural Officer, Soil testing Laboratory, Nagercoil for kind enough to provide me the facility for the analysis of environmental parameters.

My whole hearted thanks are due to Mr. G. Ramanathan, Mr. S. Nagarajan, Mrs. A. Nural Shiefa, Mr. S. Nazar, , Mr. Prakash, G. Williams, Mrs. Shyla, Mr. S. Krishnakumar, Mrs, Anitha, Research Scholars for their kind helps in various ways during the course of my study.

I thank Mr. R. Raghupathy, Mr. A. Shanmugaraj, Mr. Essaikiraj, Mr. M. Babuselvam, Mr. S. Prakash, and Mr. K. Muniyandi for their helps.

I would like to thank Miss. Sheeba for the promptness and neat execution in documentation of the thesis.

I thank Mr. Vallinayagam, New Empire Scientific Company, Mr. Muthukrishnan, Mr. Madasamy, Mr. Reegan, Mr. Kanagaraj and Mr. Suresh for their timely assistance.

I express my hearty thanks to my uncle Mr. A. Jegathesan Pillai M.A. M.Ed., Tamil Pandit for his kind advice and constant encouragement throughout my study period.

I am very grateful to my husband Er. N. Shanmugam Pillai, without his moral support and physical aid, I could not have done this work. I also remember with love and thank for my loving daughter S. Shanu for giving co-operation, untiring help and encouragement throughout my study period.

S. Shanthy