ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I humbly bow at the feet of my Lord, God Almighty for He is my path, strength and grace to complete my doctoral thesis successfully.

My respect and sincere appreciation goes to my guide

Dr. S. Prasana Kumar, Ph.D., Head of the Department of Zoology, Scott Christian College (Autonomous) Nagercoil, who right from the inception of this programme has volunteered fruitful suggestions for completing the thesis. I remember with gratitude the good words of hope uttered by him at the time of desperation to enhance my self-confidence and stimulate interest in the topic.

I express my thanks to Dr. G. Guru, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Agronomy, Agricultural College and Research Institute Killikulam, Vallanadu for his skillful and systematic help during the course of the thesis work.

I am grateful to Dr. Y.S. Johnson Thankaraj Edward, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Entomology and Dr. S. Jayarajan Nelson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Entomology, Agricultural College and Research Institute Killikulam, for the help rendered during my research.

I convey my hearty thanks to my cousin Dr. I. Sekar, Agriculture Scientist, Division of Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi for providing many references relevant to the study.

My sincere gratitude goes to Dr. E. James R. Daniel, Principal of Scott Christian College (Autonomous), Nagercoil for providing facilities.

I am thankful to all the professors of the Department of Zoology, Scott Christian College, Nagercoil, for their timely help, encouragement and good words.
I wish to express my sincere thanks to my husband Er. R. Kumara Swamy, who assisted me throughout the work. He stood by my side always with prayerful support. I specially thank my daughter K.S. Shivani, for her love and patience.

I remember with gratitude the help rendered by my Parents, family members and friends for finishing this work successfully.

My Special thanks to BKM Computer Centre, Nagercoil and ENS Computer Centre, Killikulam for computing the data and bringing my thesis to a good shape.