ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to record my sincere thanks and gratitude to Dr. Jones Nelson, Professor and Head of the Department of Zoology, St. John's College, for suggesting this topic, for his guidance, valuable suggestions, encouragement and scholarly critical comments throughout this studies.

My heartfelt thanks are due to Dr. Balasingh, Principal, St. John's College, Prof. Arulson Daniel, Principal, Scott Christian College and Prof. Duraisamy, Principal, V.O.C. College for having given me an opportunity to carry out this studies in their institutions and for their constant encouragement.

I would like to express my thanks to Prof. Joseph Dharmasingh and Dr. Loviah Joseph, Heads of the P.G. and U.G. Department of Zoology, Scott Christian College, respectively for providing lab facilities in the Department and extending to me various kinds of support in the effective pursual of my research work.
I am indebted to Dr. Palavesam, ICAS, M.S. University and Dr. Beena Palavesam for having helped me in the preparation of this thesis and for their valuable suggestions to improve the manuscript.

I owe a deep sense of gratitude to Dr. David Raj, Dr. Prasanna Kumar, Dr. Godwin Wesley, Prof. Thampi Jeyaraj and Dr. Sam Manohar Dhas who helped me in multifarious ways to carry out this work.

I express my whole hearted thankfulness to Dr. Biswas, Director, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, for identifying the spiders.

Prof. Latha Jai Kumar, Department of English is gratefully acknowledged for going through the manuscript and making necessary corrections.

I also record my sense of gratefulness to Prof. Sobitha Bai and D. V. Jeeva for their assistance in every phase of this study.