

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I express my esteemed gratitude and indebtedness to Dr. K.I. Mani Varghese, Lecturer Selection Grade/Reader, Department of Botany, Union Christian College, Aluva, for his expert guidance, constructive criticism, constant encouragement and perpetual support all through the course of investigation and preparation of manuscripts.

It is with immense pleasure that I record my deep sense of gratitude to Prof. C.M. Mathew, former Head and Prof. (Mrs.) Santha M. Mathew, Head, Department of Botany for providing laboratory facilities.

No word can truly represent my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. V.G. Rao, former Head, Department of Mycology and plant pathology, Agharkar Research Institute, Poona, Maharashtra, for providing literature, his valuable suggestions and all possible help for the preparation of the thesis.

I respectfully thank Dr. Rajan Varghese, former Principal and Dr. Raju K. John, Principal, Union Christian College, Aluva, for providing necessary facilities for the conduct of research work.

I place in record my heart-ful thanks to Smt. Nileena and Miss. Geetha (Research Scholars) and Sri. P.P. Thomachan for their help rendered for the collection of infected samples.

My hearty thanks are also due to Dr. A. Mohandas and Dr.(Mrs.) Ammini Joy, School of Environmental Studies, CUSAT, for providing necessary facilities for photomicrographic work.

I am grateful to Dr. P.J. Mathew and Dr. V.B. Hosagoudar, Scientists, TBGRI, Palode, for the valuable suggestions and for providing literature.

I am thankful to U.G.C. for providing deputation and financial assistance for the completion of this investigation.

My sincere thanks are due to Sri. Sajith Robinson and Mr. Sijo John, Ark Graphics, Kaloor, Kochi - 682 017 for computer graphics and Sri. M.U.Kuriakose & Miss. A. Sunitha, Jenil Communications, H.M.T. Junction, Kalamassery, Kochi- 683 104 for the DTP, Photostat, Binding and prompt service.

I am gratefully indebted to my wife Jannet, son Lerin C. Schlener and daughter Alwrin Roja for their valuable help, co-operation and understanding during the entire course of my study.

Last, but not the least my thanks are also due to my parents, brother and sisters - in - law who passed away long before my work was completed.

Above all, I bow my head before God Almighty who blessed me with health, patience and confidence to undertake the work successfully.



Cherian T.T.

Department of Botany,
Bharata Mata College,
Thrikkakara,
Kochi - 682 021.