

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*It gives me great pleasure than recalling with a sense of high gratitude for all that inflexible support, encouragement and guidance given by my Research Supervisor **Dr. Chinta Sudhakar**, Assistant Professor, Department of Botany, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur 515 003, India for incessant supervision, illuminating guidance and enormous encouragement throughout the period of this work. I feel, I will be never able to crystallize the gratitude I owe to him to mere words.*

*It gives me great pleasure to express my sense of gratitude to **Dr. N. Suryanarayana**, Joint Director, Regional Sericulture Research Station, Central Silk Board, Anantapur, India for his illuminating guidance and encouragement throughout the period of this work.*

I express my gratitude to Prof. T. Pullaiah, Professor and Head, Department of Botany, Prof. R.R. Venkata Raju, Chairman, BOS in Botany and Dr. B. Ravi Prasad Rao, Assistant Professor for providing necessary facilities and encouragement.

I am expressing my sincere gratitude to Member Secretary, Central Silk Board, Bangalore; Director, CSRTI and Joint Director (MORI), CSRTI, Mysore and authorities of Central Silk Board, Bangalore for their valuable sanctioning the study leave for successful completion of the work.

I am grateful to Dr. S. Ramanjulu, Department of Plant Sciences, Weismann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel for his support and encouragement

I am thankful to Sri D.C. Reddy, Deputy Director; Dr. N.S. Reddy, SRO (Seri.); colleagues; Staff and TSWL of Regional Sericultural Research Station (Central Silk Board), Anantapur for having permitted me to conduct leaf area measurement and molecular physiology.

I am expressing my sincere gratitude to Dr.M.P. Reddy, Dr. Mohan Rama Rao, Dr. Kisore and Sri Arasappa, RSRS, Central Silk Board, Anantapur for their suggestions and providing me certified plant material and their generous help in completion of this work. And also my special thanks to Staff of RSRS, Anantapur.

I am grateful to Mr. S. Giridharakumar, Senior Research Fellow (CSIR), Department of Botany, SK University for his valuable help, suggestions and encouragement.

I thank my senior research scholars, Dr. Sri Ramamurthy, Mr. K.V. Madhusudan, Mr. A. Matta Reddy, Mrs. N. Veera Kumari, Ms. A. Anuradha, Ms. M.A.H. Nagalakshmi, Ms. Nagalakshmi, Mrs. Anitha, Ms. D. Shymala, Mrs. Indira and Ms. Jyosna Kumari for their constant help and encouragement.

I am thankful to non-teaching staff of Botany Department, Kulayappa, Chenrayudu, Chandrasekhar, L.K. Reddy, Naik and Narayana for their help in my research work.

I am thankful to Mr. V. Sahadevan for typing manuscript and cooperation.

When I think of my wife, Smt. S. Radha, sons Preetham, Nischal and daughter Chandana, my joy and gratitude find no bounds for what they have support for me. I owe my thanks to all my friends and relatives for their moral support throughout my academic career.

S. THIMMA NAIK