ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I have immense pleasure in acknowledging my heartfelt gratitude to my research guide and supervisor, Dr. Dunston P. Ambrose, Director, Entomology Research Unit, St. Xavier’s College, Palayankottai for providing me an opportunity to work with him as a Research Fellow in his Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology (TNSCST) Scheme. With deep sense of gratitude I express my thanks for his meticulous guidance, learned counsel, unstinted attention, critical analysis of the work and the manuscripts at different stages of its preparation.

I express my sincere thanks to Rev. Dr. A. Packiaraj. S.J. (Former Principal), Rev. Dr. A. Antonysamy, S.J. (Principal), Rev. Dr. M. Charles, S.J. (Secretary) and Prof. M. Thomas Punithan, Head, Dept. of Zoology, St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Palayankottai for providing institutional facilities.

I am also grateful to Dr. P.J. Edward George (DST Young Scientist), Entomology Research Unit, Dr. M. Anto Claver (Lecturer, St. Andrew’s College, Gorakhpur), Dr. P. Duraipalam Thanasingh (Lecturer, Pope’s College, Sawyerpuram), Dr. A. Padmanabhan (Lecturer, Yadava College, Madurai) and Mr. K. Rajan (Lecturer, St. Joseph’s College, Trichy) for their valuable suggestions and encouragement. I am thankful to my colleague Mr. A. Kanthasamy for his kind co-operation.

I am privileged to express my sincere thanks to Dr. M. Kalyanasundaram, Professor, Horticulture College and Research Institute, Periyakulam, Dr. P.M.M. David, Head, Dept. of Agricultural Entomology, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam and Dr. A. Babu, (Entomologist, UPASI, Kerala) for their valuable suggestions.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. B. Victor for his good will and constant encouragement. I am also grateful to Rev. Fr. Dr. V. S. Manickam, Director, CBB, Dr. M.A. Haniffa, Dr. M. Narayanan, Dr. T. A. Sethuramalingam, Prof. P. Ramakrishnan, Dr. B. Xavier Innocent, Dr. S. Maria Sebastian, Dr. K. Sahayaraj and technical staff of the Department of Zoology for their enthusiastic words throughout the course of my work.

As a personal note I place my profound sense of gratitude, indebtedness and hearty thanks to Research Scholars Mr. U. Ramesh (SRF, Fisheries College, Thoothukudi),
Mr. J. Prabhu Arachi, Mr. M. Maridass, Mr. C. Ravi (Lecturer, Nehru Memorial College, Trichi), Mr. S. Sivarama Krishnan (Entomology Research Unit), Mr. M. Mannar Mannan (A.H.R.U.), Mr. G. Raju, Mr. S.P. Sankar, Mr. S. Karthick (Crop Protection Research Centre), Dr. P. Selvaraj (Research Officer, Sun Agrochemicals, Chennai), Mr. M. Muruganantham, Dr. Jesu Arockiaraj, Mr. H. Sankar (Artist), Miss. J. Ezhil (ABC) and Scholars of CARE and CBB.

I extend my sincere thanks to Mr. S. Ponmuthu Nambirajan and Mr. V. Pechimuthu (M.Phil., Scholars) for their assistance.

The fellowship provided by Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology (TNSCST) Chennai, through the research scheme sanctioned to my superior from 1999 to 2003 is gratefully acknowledged.

My special thanks are extended to Miss. S. Bindu (Jose Computer Centre) for neat presentation of this dissertation.

Finally, I gratefully remember my parents, my sisters and brothers without whom I could not have completed this work.

B. Ravichandran

02/08/2004