

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am eternally grateful to God Almighty for bestowing His Choicest Blessing on me by the virtue of which I could complete this work successfully.

I owe my profound gratitude and intense debt to my guide Dr. (Sr.) Avita, Professor (Retd.), Dept of Botany, St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam, for her immense encouragement, untiring zest to help, sound criticism and above all for motivating me to complete this work.

I offer my sincere thanks to the Principal, Rev. Sr. Tessa, St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam, for providing me the required facilities to carry out the present study in the research centre.

My deep sense of indebtedness to Dr. Merlee Teresa M.V., Reader (Retd.) Dept of Botany, St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam, for her valuable commendations, timely help and moral support.

I am obliged to Prof. N.C. Marykutty, Head, Dept of Botany and Prof. Sheela K.R., former head and all the members of the teaching staff for their co-operation and inspiration. I specially thank Dr. Tara C.P. and Dr. Liza Jacob, Dept of Botany, for helping me in many ways during this study.

My sincere thanks to Dr. P.K.K. Nair, Environmental Resources and Research Centre, Pettah; Dr. G. Kulandai Velu, Madurai Kamaraj University for their valuable suggestions and help rendered during this period of study.

I place on record my deep appreciation with gratitude Dr. K.G. Ramachandran Nair, Principal Scientist, Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Matsyapuri, for providing me the necessary laboratory facilities to carry out flame photometric analysis. I gratefully appreciate Dr. N. Chandramohanakumar, Head, Dept of Chemical Oceanography, Marine sciences, Cochin University of Science and

Technology, for his valuable criticism and sincere co-operation. I am thankful to Dr. A.K. Pradeep, Curator, Dept of Plant Sciences, University of Calicut, for identifying certain specimens required for the present work.

I am thankful to the authorities of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Cochin; Annamalai University, Parangipettai; Pondicherry University; French Institute, Pondicherry; Calicut University; Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi; Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute, Palode; University Centre, Karyavattom for providing me access to library and laboratory.

I am specially obliged to the research scholars - Mrs. Lizzy Mathew, Mrs. Beena B. Nair, Mrs. Reemol Scaria A., Mrs. Romilly Mendez, Mrs. Anitha C.T., Mr. Saju Abraham, Ms. Rekha K., Mrs. Bindu Alex and Mrs. Selinamma Joseph and also to the non-teaching staff members of the Dept of Botany, St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam, for their whole-hearted and sincere co-operation.

I appreciate Mr. Jensen T.J. of the Jeyes media, Kochi, for the neat and stylistic execution of the computer print out of the thesis.

Let me acknowledge my gratitude to the UGC for granting FIP and also to the University staff for their co-operation and timely assistance, without which I would not have completed my work in time.

My loving thanks to all my colleagues and well wishers, Little Flower College, Guruvayoor, who were the stimulus behind me for the completion of the thesis.

I will be failing in my duty, if I do not thank Manager and Principal, Little Flower College, Guruvayoor, for their constant encouragement in Education and Research. I offer my sincere gratitude to my religious congregation for their constant support, encouragement, affection, fervent prayers and blessings for the successful completion of my studies.