ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It gives me an immense pleasure to express my sincere and deep sense of gratitude and my inexpressible indebtedness to my revered teacher and Research Supervisor Dr. T. Pullaiah M.Sc., Ph.D. F.B.S., Reader in Botany, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur for his untiring efforts and a high degree of inspiration and able guidance offered to me to complete this work. He is unfathomable source of inspiration in my research career.

I express my humble thanks to Prof. C.G. Prakasa Rao, Head of the department, Dr. R.R. Venkata Raju, Lecturer, Sri C. Sudhakar, Lecturer for their valuable suggestions.

My special thanks to Sri C. Subbarayudu, Sri V. Rama Krishnaiah, Sri Ali Moulali, Sri E. Channaiah, Sri P. Surya Prakasa Babu for their invaluable suggestions, constant encouragement and good wishes.

I am gratefully indebted to Dr. P. Venkateswara Prasanna for his help during the course of this present study.

Words do not suffice to acknowledge the help of friend of my heart Mr. B. Ravi Prasad Rao. His help in multitudinous ways right from the outset of this work have helped me in the completion of this work.

I am thankful to the Joint Director and the other Scientific personnel of the B.S.I. Coimbatore and Head, Department of Botany, Andhra University for according permission
to work in the herbaria and for providing library facilities.

My greatful thanks to my friends Mr. J. Veeraswamy, Research Scholar in Microbiology, Mr. S. Ramanjulu and my research scholar colleagues Mrs. Ashrafunnisa, Miss G. N. V. Febulaus and Mrs. N. V. Padmavathi for their help, affection and hearty cooperation.

Personal thanks to the authorities of Sri Krishnadeva- rayya University for providing research facilities.

I am thankful to Sri A. Thimmappa for his stoic and neat typing of the manuscript.

Above all I owe everything to my beloved parents whose sustained efforts alone not only ignited the spark of enthusiasm in me but also made it possible for me to undertake and complete this study. I also acknowledge the help extended by my sister, my brother throughout my academic career.

At this juncture I recollect the unfailing enthusiasm and constant encouragement rendered by my wife Devaki Devi.

(K. HANUMANTHAPPA)