ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I feel it a pleasant duty to express my profound sense of gratitude to my Research Supervisor, Dr. T. Pullaiah, Professor and Chairman, Board of Studies, Department of Botany, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur, who not only motivated me to work on the problem, but also acted as a powerful propeller by way of his matchless guidance and constructive criticism. I am very much obliged to him for his endearing patience and kind heartedness.

I am thankful to Dr. R.R. Venkata Raju, Reader and Head of the Department of Botany, for providing me with all the necessary facilities and encouragement to pursue this task.

My special thanks to Prof. C.G. Prakasa Rao, Dr. C. Sudhakar and Dr. Ravi Prasad Rao, Lecturers for their help and encouragement.

I am grateful to Mr. K. Sri Rama Murthy for his ceaseless cooperation, constant encouragement, especially at times when he was most needed, brotherly help, affection and company for most of the field trips.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. K. Narayana Rao, Professor and Head (formerly he was my Principal Investigator), Dr. Yesoda, Herbarium Curator, Dr. K. Madhava Chetty, Herbarium Keeper and all my beloved teachers of Department of Botany, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupathi for their help and moral support.

I thank the authorities of Central National Herbarium, Calcutta (CAL); Botanical Survey of India, Southern Circle, Coimbatore (MH); Blatter Herbarium, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, (BLAT); Osmania University, Hyderabad (OU), Kakatiya University (KU), Government Degree College, Venkatagiri (VV) for permitting me to refer their herbaria, libraries and also for their assistance.
I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Dr. M. Sanjappa, Deputy Director, CNH (CAL), Dr. G.V. Subba Rao and Ms. G.R. Kumari, former Scientists of BSI, Dr. S. Karthikeyan, Senior Scientist, BSI, Pune; Dr. N. Venugopal, Scientist, BSI, Coimbatore; Dr. A.M. Almeida, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai for their suggestions, help, encouragement and providing me with facilities available at the Institute for completion of the work.

I am extremely thankful to Sri T. Vijaya Kumar and Sri Satish Chandra, Vice-Chairmen, and Managing Directors, Sri S. Radhakrishnan, Deputy General Manager (Markg.), Girijan Cooperative Corporation Limited (GCC), Visakhapatnam; Sri Ramakrishnaiah, Superintendent, Girijan Cooperative Corporation Limited, Chintapalli, and personnel of GCC for their help, fine arrangements, timely suggestions during my exploration trips at Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Srikakulam and Vijayanagaram and also my thanks to Andhra Pradesh Forest Personnel for their extensive help at various forest divisions during the field trips.

Words fail to express my thankfulness to Miss Revathi, Mr. Sudhakar Naidu and Mr. S. Hidayathulla, without whose constant help, affection, moral support and encouragement, I would not have completed this work.

I express my special gratitude to my best friends Ms P. Nirmala, Ms M. Uma Devi, Ms K. Supriya, Ms K. Hema Sundari, Ms I. Sakeena, Ms V.C. Vani, Dr. B.L.A. Prabhavathi, Ms T. Anuradha and Ms M. A. H. Nagalakshmi.

I thank all my senior research scholars Dr. M. Anuradha, Dr. K. Jayamma, Dr. P.S.P. Babu, Dr. C. Prabhakar, Dr. Prabhakar Raju, Sri Venkatappa and my co-scholars for their various kinds of help.

I wish to record my deep appreciation and thanks to Dr. P. Sai Prasad Goud, Mr. Raghu Ramulu, Mr. R. Vijaya Kumar and Mr. T. Dharamachandra Kumar for their encouragement and help, especially in field trips at Nallamalais.
I thank my family friends Sri R. Sankar Reddy, Sri C. Jayachandra Reddy and Sri B. Jayaram Naik for their stupendous effort in supporting my research work by various ways.

It is my good fortune to have a loving mother and father (late) who fostered in me the much needed zest.

I am very much indebted to my family members Vanajakshi, Sri Prasada Rao, Vijayalakshmi, Sri Nageswara Rao, Mr. Nithin and Mr. Nikhil, without whose whole-hearted cooperation and help, my venture would not have been fruitful.

My thanks to Sri V. Sahadevan for his excellent Computer typing of this thesis in time.

Finally, I thank all my well-wishers and those who helped me directly and indirectly in my efforts of Plant collection and finalisation of this work.

S. Sandhya Rani