

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I feel immeasurable pleasure in writing that I am highly grateful to my guide **Dr.Y.L.Krishnamurthy**, Associate Professor, Department of Applied Botany, Kuvempu University, Jnana Sahyadri, Shankaraghatta, giving me an opportunity for fulfilling my dream to pursue doctoral degree.

I would like to thank University Grant Commission for providing financial assistance as junior project fellow. It's my privilege to express my deep sense of gratitude to the Karnataka Forest Department for giving permission to enter forest and to carry out the study. My special thanks to ATREE, Bangalore and Rufford, UK for providing me small grants to study lichens diversity in Bhadra and Shettihalli wildlife sanctuary and IDEA Wild, USA for supplying the camera and pH meter for my study.

I am indebted to Dr. D.K, Upreti and Dr. Sanjeeva Nayaka, Scientists and their group at National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow, UP, India, for encouragement and identification of specimens and carry out my research work and Dr. T. Lumbsch and R. Lucking, The Field Museum, Chicago, USA for invaluable help in my work and techniques of identification of specimens and analysis of data.

I owe a great deal of gratitude to Prof. M. Krishnappa, Prof. M.B. Shivanna, Dr. S.R. Krishnamurthy and Dr. Raja Naik and Dr. Somashekar G.M., Faculty Members of our Department for their encouragement. I also thanks to all our department teaching, non-teaching staff and Research colleges.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr Kansri Boonpragob and her groups, Ramkhamhaeng University, Thailand, Dr. P.K. Divakar, Spain and Dr. Santosh Joshi, Korea, Dr. G. K. Jayaprakasha, USA, Dr. K.V. Gururaj, IISc, Bangalore, Dr. R. Siddappashetty, Dr. Geneshen, Dr. Soubadra, ATREE, Bangalore, Dr. Geetha Samak, Shimoga, Prof. David Richardson, Saint Mary's University, USA and Dr. Hariharan, MSSRF, Chennai for extending their comments and critical suggestions for my work and gave the literature for my research work. Dr. K.G. Bhat, Udupi and Dr. S.N.Bhat, for identification of host plants.

I most cordially acknowledge to Dr. Sringshwar GKVK, Bangalore for GIS map and encouraging my study. I deeply and most heartily acknowledge to Dr. Matthew Nelsen, USA, Dr. Sittiporn Parnmen, Bangkok, Dr. Bharath Prathwiraj UK, Dr. Balaji S. Canada, Dr. Santosh Sharma, Ujjain, Dr. Mahesh Kawale Gondia, Dr. Henry Jonathan, Visakhapatnam, Dr. Manoj Lekhak, Kolahapur, Dr. Milind M. Sardesai, Aurangabad, Dr. Hrusikesh Nayak, Orassia, Dr. Debajyoti Chatterjee, Jammu and Kashmir, Chethan, Bangalore, Harish, Prasheath K and Udupa E.S. for providing the material assistance and helped during my study.

I am grateful to my beloved father **Sri. Shankaranarayana K.N.**, mother **Smt. Kamakshi K.S.**, my wife Smt. Ramya B.S., sisters Smt. Vidya Karthik K.S., Ms. Vinutha K.S. and all my family members, who are being a source of inspiration to me throughout my career.

I am thankful to Dr. H.M. Prakasha, Dr. A.M. Sathish, Dr. Rajakumar, N., Dr. Vasanth Kumar, K., Dr. Nanda A., Dr. Nagaraj O., Dr. Shankar Naik, Dr. Girish Janny, Mr. Syed Abrar, Mr. Someshakar Achar K.G., Mr. Parashuram T.R., Mr. Ramachandra Naik and all the Research Scholars, Department of Applied Botany, Kuvempu University, Shankaraghatta, for their help at every moment.

I have due regards and appreciation to my intimate friends Vishnumurthy K.A., Shivu Kumar, Rajini N.M., Shrivankumar S., Nitish, Niranjana H.G., Harsha K.S, Arun Bhat, Nagabhushan, Chidananda, Gurumurthy, Nagashree B.R, Anantha G., Goutham, Kalachar H. C., Shivukumar P., Peethambar S.K. and other friends for their willingness to help me throughout the work.

I also thank the staff members of meteorological station, Shimoga for providing rainfall and temperature data. My thanks to C.E.S Library, Tata Memorial Library, G.K.V.K Library, NBRI Library, Lucknow, CDRI Library, Lucknow, CES, Madras and Kuvempu University Library.

I am also thankful to Sudha and Dinesh, S.G.S. Computers, Shankaraghatta, Shimoga district for neat type-setting and printing.

In the end I shall be obliged to Kuvempu University for providing an opportunity to work here in the Jnana Sahyadri Campus. With this I express my profound gratitude to all those who helped me directly or indirectly.

Vinayaka K.S.