Acknowledgements

I would like to express my deep and sincere gratitude to my supervising guide, Prof. Dr. A Ramachandran, Registrar, Cochin University of Science and technology for his meticulous guidance, constant encouragement, moral support and constructive criticism. Without his valuable suggestions and intellectual inputs this work would not have been completed. I acknowledge him with immense gratitude.

I am deeply grateful to Prof. Dr. Saleena Mathew, Director of school of Industrial Fisheries for all the help she has rendered throughout the period of my study.

My thanks are due to Prof. Dr. C. Hridayanathan, Former Director, School of Industrial Fisheries, CUSAT for his constant encouragement, advice and valuable suggestion during the initial stage of my research.

I express my sincere gratitude to Marine Products Export Development Authority, Govt. of India, Cochin for providing research fellowship for 2 years as a part of the sponsored research project on "Resource analysis of potential ornamental fishes in Kerala for the development of markets in India and abroad". Thanks are due to Mr. K.S Nair, and Mr. Vijaya Kumar MPEDA, Cochin, for their sincere support and encouragement. I am deeply indebted to Mr. V.K Dey, former Deputy Director, MPEDA, Cochin, for timely help and sincere advice in the programme.

My sincere gratitude to Dr. Ramakrishnan Korakkandy, Professor of School of Industrial Fisheries, CUSAT for his inspiring advices, guidance, valuable suggestions and also for the facilities provided.

Unfailing support and blessings received from my teachers Dr. K.T Thomson, Prof. Dr. Madhusoodhana Kurup, Dr. K. Ravindran and Mr. John Mohan helped me in achieving the goals throughout the period of study.

I express my heartfelt thanks to Dr. K, Ashok Kumar and Dr. Suseela Mathew Senior Scientists, Central Institute of Fisheries technology, Cochin for their timely advice, valuable criticism and suggestions during preparation of manuscript.

Sincere thanks to Sri. H. Krishna Iyer, Retd. Scientist, Central Institute of Fisheries Technology for helping in statistical analysis of the data.

I acknowledge my profound gratitude and sincere thanks to Dr. Nandini Menon for her timely advice and valuable comments in the compilation of the manuscript.
I wish to express my in-depth feelings of gratitude to Dr. T. P. Sajeevan and Dr. Girish Gopinath for their constant inspiration, wholehearted support and prayers. In every sense, none of this work would have been possible without them.

The help received from Mr. Suresh Kumar, Laboratory in-charge of Lake Shore hospital, Cochin in the analysis of blood samples is gratefully acknowledged.

I thank Dr. Jameela Beevi, Selection Grade Lecturer, Maharaja's College, Ernakulam and Dr. T. V. Sankar, Senior scientist, CIFF, Cochin for their encouragement and valuable suggestions in this endeavour.

I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to my beloved friends Mr. Suneshthampy, Mr. S. Selvan, Mrs. Mini Sekharan, Mr. E. Harkrishnan, and Mr. Neil Scolastin Correya, for their immense help, moral support and constant encouragements.

I am fortunate to have friends like Mr. K. V. Radhakrishnan Mr. T. G. MankiKumar, Mr. Eapan Jacob, Mr. K. V. Prasanth, Mr. S. Abhishe, Mr. K. R. Baiju, Mrs. Susan Abraham, Ms. Maya Raman, Mr. Somnath Pai, Mr. K. V. Abdul Jaleel, Mr. Ranjith Kanjoor, Mr. V. J. Rajish Kumar, Mr. T. P. Sabin, Mr. Sreedharan, K., Mr. Suraj, M.D and Mr. Rajeev. I thank each and every one of them for their help.

Thanks are also due to Mr. M. A. George, Mr. Gipson Edapazham and, Mr. Gibin Kumar for their immense help and valuable assistance for the fish sampling survey during the period of my study.

I thank members of the administrative staff of School of Industrial Fisheries for their help.

The help received from Mr. Eapan Zachariah, Proprietor, Megyo Traders, Kochi in providing the experimental fishes is gratefully acknowledged. Thanks are also due to Mr. V. K. Stephan for his assistance and help during the course of this study.

Words are not enough to express my feelings and emotions for the unconditional shower of care, love and affection of my beloved parents and my brother who had been the motivation in all my endeavours and I feel lucky to have them with me, always. I am deeply indebted to them for all my achievements.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Cochin University of Science and Technology for research fellowship granted during the period of my research work.

Pramod P.K.