ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. J.B. Mythili, Senior scientist, Indian Institute of Horticultural research, Hessarghatta Lake Post, Bangalore- 560 089 and the esteemed chairperson of my Ph.D programme for her excellent guidance and constant encouragement during the course of study.

I am extremely grateful to Dr. Riaz Makhmood, Reader, Department of Post Graduate Studies and Research in Biotechnology, Kuvempu University, Jnana Sahyadri, Shankaraghatta, Shimoga-577 451 Karnataka, for his co-guidance, immense cooperation and valuable suggestions during the period of my study.

I take this opportunity to convey my sincere thanks to Dr. G.V.S. Saiprasad Scientist senior scale, Division of Biotechnology, IIHR, whose creative analysis and constructive rebuilding of the concepts and crucialities, my investigations assumed a newer shape and strength.

My sincere thanks are due to Dr. Lalitha Anand, Head, Division of Biotechnology, IIHR, for her valuable suggestions during my study. I am grateful to the Director, IIHR, providing me an opportunity to work in his esteemed organization. I thank Dr. Pious Thomas and Dr. Ravishankar for their cooperation. I would also like to thank Dr. Udaykumar, Professor, Crop Physiology Department, GKVK, and Bangalore-65 for providing the binary vector for my studies. I thank Dr. Gopalakrishnan, Senior scientist, Division of Plant Pathology, IIHR, for providing the fungal culture for my study. I also thank Kuvempu University staff and students for their kind help. I thank DBT project, the funding agency of my fellowship.

I am deeply indebted to my Mummy, Daddy Ani, Abhi and Anu for their infinite affection and patient endurance during the long period that was devoted to research work. It would have not been possible to complete my Ph.D programme without their inciteful encouragement.

There are no words to explain the moral support and incessant inspiration offered from far by Geetha. There are not enough words to express my gratitude to H. J. Rashmi, Jayaram uncle and G.K.Swarna and their family members, for constant help and the caring residential facility provided by them during the course of investigation making a memorable experience. I can never forget the unrelented cooperation by Jayadevi during the course of study.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to my IIHR friends Rashmi Anand, Sony, Bindu, Vinay, Lokesh, Manjula, Naveena and other colleagues for their help and lively companionship during the course of study.
It is an occasion to thank other friends Chaitra, Gunda, Priya, Saroo, Srikanth, Smitha, Smitha Hegde, Shwetha, Anitha, Vinoda, Meenakshi, Madhura, Noorie and Vidya, for their support and making my stay enjoyable in Bangalore.

My special thanks are due to Giri, Guru and Sathish for their ever helping hands and being a source of inspiration during the end of my study.

I express my thanks to Shivarudraiah, Param, M.V. Giri, Vasanthamma, Hanumantharaju for their everlasting help rendered through out my research programme.

Finally I thank all my dear and near ones who made this a reality.

(Suneetha, C)

Bangalore,
10th October, 2005