Acknowledgments

It gives me an immense pleasure to express my wholehearted indebtedness to my research supervisor Dr. S. L. Belagali, Professor and Co-ordinator, Department of Studies in Environmental Science, University of Mysore, Mysore - 6, for his elegant & eminent guidance and also constant encouragement throughout the period of research.

I profusely thank, Prof. S. P. Hosmani, DOS in Botany, who inspired me to take up this study.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Prof. S.N. Ramaswamy, Professor and Chairman (Rtd), DOS in Botany, University of Mysore, Mysore - 6, for his valuable suggestions during my research period.

I express my sincere thanks to Prof. A. Balasubramanian, Director of EMMRC, University of Mysore, Mysore, for his encouragement and co-operation throughout my research work.

A great deal of credence goes to my colleagues Dr. Vishwanath, Prof. & Principal (Rtd), Maharani’s Science
college for Women, Mysore 5, Dr. Chennaveerappa, Prof & Head, Dept. of Zoology, Dr. Srinivas, HOD, Dept. of Sericulture, Maharani's science college for women, Mysore 5, for the encouragement and timely help rendered to me.

Many thanks and a word of appreciation to Dr. Manjula, Dr. N. S. Raju, Dr. A.G. Devi Prasad, Dr. S. Srikanta Swamy and Dr. G.V. Venkataramana, DOS in Environmental Science, University of Mysore, Mysore - 6, who helped me directly or indirectly during my stay in the Department.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Shivakumar, Smt. Girijamma, Mr. Nagaraja and Ms. Prathima, who are the staff members of the DOS in Environmental Science, University of Mysore, for their help and support during my study period.

My special thanks and appreciation go to the Dept. of Higher Education, Karnataka State Government for providing me an opportunity to carryout this higher study.

I am also thankful to my research colleagues Mr. Pramod G. Pai, Mrs. Smitha P.G., Mrs. Shantalakshmi K., Oinam Jayalakshmi Devi, Mr. Hancox W. Jaoko, Mr. M.
N. Modoodi and Mr. Brujesh for their co-operation during my research work.

I thank my friends especially Mr. Vijay, DOS in Botany, Mr. Dayananda DOS in Chemistry and Mr. Sachidanandamurthy, DOS in Zoology of Mysore University, who gave me thought provoking ideas during this endeavor.

I would like to extend my thanks to First Year and Second year M.Sc students, who made my stay pleasant in the Department of Environmental Science.

I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to my parents whose blessings have always prompted me to pursue academic activities deeply. I am thankful to my brothers and sisters for their encouragements. I am also thankful to my wife Smt. Hemashree. P. B., my daughter Kumari Prajvishree. P.B and my son chiranjeevi Prathamraj. P. B. whose natural smiles extended to me relief, all through this tiresome endeavor.

Last but not least, I am thankful to UGC, New Delhi, for the award of teacher fellowship through which, I could take up this task.
Finally, I will remain always a debtor to all my well-wishers for their blessings, without which this task would not have come in to existence.

Padmanabha B