ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The PhD research that I had been through was truly a once in a lifetime experience. I realize that there are many people who deserve to be thanked for what I have been achieving and for what I have become now. It is indeed a great pleasure for me to express my profound gratitude to every distinguished one who helped me to make this humble endeavour to its fruitful completion. They will always be in my heart, in my mind and in my grave.

First and foremost, I would like to thank my greatest teacher of all: Lord Almighty who is always with me and showers his blessings and grace in all walks of my life.

To be blessed with a wonderful person as a guide is one thing; to have a blessing itself as a guide is another. I have been fortunate to have both the above, for which I shall ever be grateful with my whole heart. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the guidance given by my beloved teacher Dr. M. Johnson, Assistant Professor in Botany and Director, Centre for Plant Biotechnology, St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai. I have always been inspired by his meticulousness and energetic application to any problem.

I have no words to express my gratitude to my beloved parents and family members who shaped me into what I am. Their constant motivation, prayers and moral support always acted as a paddle and propelled me to have a smooth sail in my academics.

I am extremely grateful to University Grants Commission, New Delhi for providing fellowship under the major project (Ref. No: 41-416/2012) to carry out my research.

I am very much thankful to Rev. Dr. A. Joseph, S.J., Former Principal and Rev. Dr. V. Gilburt Camillus, S.J., Principal, St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai for providing the adequate institutional and laboratory facilities.

It is a joyous occasion to express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. G. Devarajan, Secretary, Sri Paramakalyani College, Alwarkurichi, Dr. A.J.A. Ranjith Singh, Former Principal and Dr. S. Kalyanaraman, Principal, Sri Paramakalyani College, Alwarkurichi for their moral support and constant encouragement.

I express my profound gratitude to my beloved teachers Dr. L. Louis Jesudass, Associate Professor & Former Head and Dr. L. Henry Joseph, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Botany, St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai for being helpful, supportive and approachable.

I am particularly indebted to my beloved teacher Dr. G. Sahaya Anthony Xavier, Associate Professor, Department of Botany, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai for his generous assistance in thesis correction.
It is my duty to record my heartfelt thanks to my inspiring teacher **Dr. V. Irudayaraj**, Associate Professor, Department of Botany, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai for his support throughout my research. I acknowledge the kind gesture of **Rev. Dr. John Peter Arulanandam, S.J.**, Director, Centre for Biodiversity and Biotechnology, St. Xavier’s College ( Autonomous), Palayamkottai for his gracious help.

It is a great pleasure to convey my sincere gratitude to all my **beloved teachers** of the Department of Botany from St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai for all the sacrifices they have made for me whenever a need arose throughout the college days.

As a tip of the iceberg, I am highly indebted to my fellow researchers and colleagues **Dr. A. Babu, Mr. A. Sivaraman, Dr. M. Narayani, Dr. T. Renisheya Joy Jebar Malar, Mrs. K. Chalini, Ms. I. Revathy, Mrs. T. Shibila, Mrs. T. Renola, Mrs. V. Kalaiaarasi and Mrs. M. Syed Ali Fathima**, Research Scholars, Centre for Plant Biotechnology, St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai for their unaccountable help and appreciation. I have learnt several things from them which enabled me to finish my work at time.

I express my personal thanks to **Mr. A. Anto Arockia Raj**, Assistant Professor and **Mrs. J. Vinnarasi**, Research Scholar, Department of Chemistry, St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai for their help in GC-MS structure prediction.

I find myself fortunate to place my heartfelt thanks to **Dr. N. Adhirajan**, Assistant Professor, KMCH College of Pharmacy, Coimbatore for his kind help in anticancer activity.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to **Mr. S. Ghanthi Kumar**, Research Scholar, Centre for Biodiversity and Biotechnology, St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai for his continuous encouragement and support. I wholeheartedly thank **Mr. J. Gowtham** and his father **Mr. E. Janarthanan** for their timely help in field visits and plant collection.

I would like to convey my special thanks to **Mr. G. Adaikalaraj**, Research Scholar, Annamalai University, Chidambaram and **Mrs. A. Kala**, Research Scholar, St. Joseph’s College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli for their help in analytical work.

I take this opportunity to thank **Mr. Xavier, Mr. Peter, Mr. Soosai, Mr. Arulraj, Mr. Sankar** and **Mr. Robert** for their kind help during the course of my study.

Above all, I acknowledge my friends and well wishers, whom I have not mentioned above and whose best wishes have always encouraged me. I sincerely thank them from the bottom of my heart.

*N. Janakiraman*