ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I wish to record my deep sense of gratitude and sincere thank to guide Dr. (Mrs.) Kusuma Heelakantan, Reader in Department of Marine Biology, Karnataka university, Karwar for her valuable guidance and advice throughout the study period.

I indebted to Dr. B. Heelakantan, Chairman and Head of the Department of Marine Biology, Karnataka University, Karwar for his untiring interest, constant encouragement, creative suggestions, critically going through the manuscript and mainly for providing me expensive medias & chemicals during the study period.

I am grateful to Dr. P.K. Surendran, Scientist and Head of Microbiology Department, Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Cochin for his kindness in providing library facilities and valuable discussion during my stay at CIFT. His valuable instructions in practical work were of great important to me. I would like to thank Mrs. Mytri K.S, CIFT for her kind co-operation.

Dr. U.G. Bhat and Dr. U.G. Naik are acknowledged for their encouragement. I am grateful to Mr. Sivabalan, Research Scholar for his kind help in computing the data. I am thankful to Miss B. Sakunthala and Mr. Girish Menon,
Research Scholars for their encouragement, suggestions and discussion at different stages of study.

I acknowledge Mr. Suresh Lohar and Miss. Naseema Shiakh. (M. Phil) students who contributed significantly to the successful completion of this thesis.

I am also beholden to my brother, Dinesh and his friends Sudesh & Ivan for drawing excellent graphs. I am particularly grateful to my mother, brothers and sister Geeta for their continued interest and encouragement, which were of great help to me throughout the course of my work.

( meena t. naik)