Acknowledgement

This thesis arose in part out of years of research that has been done since I came to Dr. Ch. Ramesh Research group. By that time, I have worked with a great number of people whose contribution in assorted ways to the research and the making of the thesis deserved special mention. It is a pleasure to convey my gratitude to them all in my humble acknowledgment.

In the first place I would like to record my gratitude to Dr. Ch. Ramesh Professor, Department of Botany, Karnataka University, Dharwad, for his supervision, advice, and guidance from the very early stage of this research as well as giving me extraordinary experiences throughout the work. Above all and the most needed, he provided me unflinching encouragement and support in various ways, which exceptionally inspire and enrich my growth as a student, a researcher and a scientist want to be. I am indebted to him more than he knows.

It is true, that words sound too poor in expressing my sincere gratitude to the horde of my pals and well-wishers who showered their affection on me by way of laying the seed of hope in my tender mind for pursuing higher studies, which resulted for me taking up tertiary education leading ultimately to my undertaking the august Doctoral research work.

I make sincere attempt to express my deep sense of gratitude to all those who helped me during the course of my research work, knowing full well that my sweet words are no substitution for the pain that they have taken for me.

I am grateful to late Dr R.R. Hedge, Dr. G. R. Hedge, Professor, Dr. H. Niranjan Murthy, Professor & Ex-Chairman, Dr. H. C. Lakshman, Professor & Chairman, P. G. Department of studies in Botany, Karnataka University, Dharwad, for providing the necessary facilities.

I make sincere attempt to express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. G. S Mulgund and other Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff, Department of Botany, KUD, for their affectionate encouragement and unreserved help.

With great pleasure I wish to acknowledge the name of my seniors and research colleagues Dr. S. Vijayakumar Dr. Raju, K.M, Dr. Raju, C.K., Dr. Ravi S. Chavan Dr.
Avita Marihal, Dr. Basavaraj P. Kabbalageri Dr. S. H. Khazi, Dr. Anilkumar Hegde, Mrs. Nanda Naik, Mrs. Megha Bettal, Mrs. Shabana Nadaf, Miss. Sumangala, Miss. Geeta Sasvihalli, Miss. Priya. Powar, Miss. Shaista. Jamadar Mr Santoshkumar J and Mr. Ishwar Yarihakkal for their wholehearted cooperation and help during my research days and in completion research work.

I am especially grateful for the support, friendship and constant encouragement of my Co-research Scholars of the Department Dr. Prakash, Dr. Geeta Patil, Dr. Jayasudha Bhat, Dr. Laxman Kadam, Dr. Jyothi, Dr. Abdul Nayeem, Dr. Praveen Dr Santosh H. Mr Rajesh K. Mr Satish N.P., Mr. Poornananda, Mr. Manohar S. H., Mr Manoj G., Mr Mahesh B., Miss Shweta S., Shri. V. S. Bheemareddy., Mr. Sandeepkumar K., Mr. channabasava A., Mr Gurumurthy., Mr Ganesh mathad, Mr. Pramod Pattar and for one or the others help, co-operation and nice company during the course of my research work.

It is a pleasure to express my gratitude wholeheartedly to Mr Shivaji K. Jadhav NIRRH, ICMR Mumbai, for his research concerned support and his family in all the ways to complete my research work.

Where would I be without my family? My parents deserve special mention for their inseparable support and prayers. My father Shree Gangadhar K. Pattar and Mother Smt Sharadha G. Pattar, Uncle Shri Somasheker K Pattar Aunty Gangamma S Pattar, Sister Gayathri, Brother in law Rahual Suthar Brother Prajapati, and Sister in law Smt Jayalaxmi P. Pattar their support, co-operation and I am extremely grateful to my other family members for their encouragement and moral support during the research work.

I am thankful to Ministry of Environment and Forest New Delhi and University of Grant Commission New Delhi for financial assistance towards my research work.

Finally, I would like to thank everybody who was important to the successful realization of thesis, as well as expressing my apology that I could not mention personally one by one.

Manohar G. Pattar