

Acknowledgements

I wish to express my deep gratitude to Prof S C Sehgal MD., MAMS., FIMSA., FNASc Director, Regional Medical Research Centre (ICMR), Port Blair, who has made great contributions to different Infectious Diseases, prevalent in these islands, especially among the tribal populations, for suggesting the problem, guiding me at every stage of the work, and extending all facilities at the Centre.

The guidance and advice of Dr K D Ramaiah MSc., PhD., Assistant Director, Vector Control Research Centre (ICMR), Pondicherry my co-guide, for planning this year long study in a difficult terrain and for his valuable suggestions in the write up of thesis are gratefully acknowledged.

The advice and valuable suggestions of Dr K Krishnamoorthy MSc., PhD., DCPA., Deputy Director, Vector Control Research Centre (ICMR) Pondicherry are gratefully acknowledged.

I am thankful to Dr M V Murhekar MD., Deputy Director, Regional Medical Research Centre (ICMR), Port Blair for constant encouragement during the period of work and also for having kindly read and checked the manuscript.

I offer my thanks to Dr A P Sugunan MBBS., MAE., Senior Research Officer Regional Medical Research Centre (ICMR), Port Blair for useful suggestions from time to time.

My thanks are also due to Dr P Vanamail MSc., PhD, Senior Research Scientist, Vector Control Research Centre (ICMR), Pondicherry for his help in certain complex statistical analysis.

Finally, I thank the Director of Health Services, Andaman and Nicobar Administration and Dr Shankar Saha Medical Officer in charge, Primary Health Centre, Teressa for extending all the facilities at Teressa for carrying out the field work.