

## *ACKNOWLEDGEMENT*

*I take it as a privilege to express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to my respected guide, Dr. C. Kuruvilla Jacob whose supervision, creative suggestions, constant encouragements and support aided me to complete this thesis.*

*I sincerely express my deep sense of gratitude and respect to Dr. Jacob Mathew whose supervision and support throughout the thesis work enabled me to complete it successfully.*

*I extent my sincere thanks to Dr. James Jacob, Director, Rubber Research Institute of India, Kottayam for the encouragement and also for providing facilities required for doing the work,*

*I would also like to express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to Dr. Shaji Philip whose, constant encouragements and support aided me to complete this thesis.*

*I sincerely express my deep sense of gratitude and respect to Dr. Padma Ramachandran, Dr. V.G.Malathi and Dr. Anupam Varma, Advanced Center for Plant Virology, Division of Plant Pathology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa Campus, New Delhi for their precious guidance, encouragement and continued support throughout the work,*

*I extent my sincere thanks to Director, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa Campus, New Delhi for providing facilities required for doing the molecular studies.*

*I am grateful to office staff of Rubber Research Institute of India for the support throughout the work, I wish to thank Mrs. Jayasanthi PB for giving me constant encouragement and support.*

*I wish to thank the office staff of Rubber Training Institute especially Mrs. Smitha for the support throughout the work, I wish to thank Dr. Alice John for giving me constant encouragement and support.*

*I wish to thank all research fellows at Advanced Center for Plant Virology, Division of Plant Pathology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa Campus, New Delhi especially Mr. Imran, Mr. Ajay, Miss. Neha, Miss. Richa, Mr. Veerbahadur Singh, Miss. Priyanka, Miss. Promil, Miss. Jyothsna and Miss Lucy for their support.*

*I am grateful to office staff of Indian Agricultural Research Institute Pusa Campus, New Delhi for the support throughout the work,*

*I am highly indebted to the management and staff of the various estates for the support in conducting the study at their plantations. I am highly indebted to the field workers in each plantation for the help in conducting the study.*

*I am grateful to the rubber growers at various locations for the support in conducting the study at their plantations.*

*I wish to express my heartfelt sense of gratitude to Dr.Kavitha K Mydin, Joint Director, Crop Improvement and Dr.Sabu.P.Idicula, Joint Director, Crop Protection, RRII, Kottayam for their valuable and timely suggestions and for providing all the facilities throughout this endeavour.*

*It is of great pleasure to express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Kothandaraman, Dr. Annakutty Joseph, Dr. Kochuthresiamma Joseph, Dr. Bindu Roy, Dr. VT Jose, Dr. S.Thankamony, Mr. Edwin*

*Prem, Dr.Sadanand.K,mushrif, Mrs. Sailaja Devi and Dr. Shammiraj, Scientists in Plant Pathology division, RRII, Kottayam for their valuable guidance and timely suggestions throughout the work, I convey my thanks to Dr. Geetha Jose for the valuable help throughout the work, I thank Mr. Ajith Kumar, Mr.V.C Joseph, Mr. Vijayan and Mr. K.G. Jayan, Plant Pathology Division, RRII, Kottayam for their valuable help throughout the work,*

*I owe my thanks to Dr. VC Mercykutty, Dr.Vinoth Thomas, Dr. Mohammad Sathik, Dr. T Meenakumari, Dr.T Girish, Mr. Reju MJ, Dr. C Narayanan, and other members of Botany Division for giving me encouragement and support.*

*I convey my thanks to Mr.Ramesh.B Nair and Mr.P.Anish, Mr.Biju.B, Mrs Suma Statistics and Computer Division, RRII, Kottayam for their support in statistical analysis of data in this work,*

*I am highly indebted to Dr. M.A. Nazeer, Dr. R. Krishnakumar, Dr. C.P. Reghu, Dr. A. Tulaseedaran, Dr. K. Annamalinathan, Dr. K.U. Thomas, Dr. T. Saha, Dr. Molly Thomas, Dr. Thomas Baby, Mr. Anil, Mr. K. Madusoodanan, Mr. K. U. Thomas, Dr. Manoj Kurian, Dr. Jayantha, Dr. Sumesh and Mr. Jayasuria, scientists and staff members of RRII for their valuable comments and suggestions.*

*I wish to thank Mr. Johnson Philipose, Mr.Jidesh and Mr. Rejith Kumar for their constant companionship.*

*I wish to thank Dr.Amith Abraham and Dr.Satheesh, Research Students, RRII, Kottayam for their constant companionship and support.*

*My heartfelt thanks for the support, encouragement and constant companionship of Mr. Joby Joseph, Mr. Ajith and other Research Students, RRII, Kottayam during this work, I also express my sincere thanks to, Ms. Roshny Susan Elias, Mr.Hareesh Babu, Mr.Harish.M, Mr.Pramod Sivan, Ms. Gopika and Mr. Arun Kumar V.K,*

*I am thankful to the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India for granting me the fellowship during the tenure of my study.*

*I wish thanks to M/S Minitex Opp. M.G University, Kottayam for printing of this thesis.*

*I bow down to my family members for their moral support, immense patience and loving care that made me more confident.*

*Finally and foremost I thank the **God Almighty** for having made possible the successful completion of my thesis.*

**Thomson Abraham**