Acknowledgement

Completion of this doctoral dissertation is possible with the support of several people. I would never have been able to finish my thesis without the guidance of my Guide, my project coordinators, my colleagues, help from my friends, well wishers and support from my family members and my wife. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of them.

First and foremost, I would like to thank God, whose many blessings have made me who I am today.

At this moment of accomplishment, first of all I pay honour to my guide, Dr. S. Chandrasekaran, Associate Professor, Department of Plant Sciences, School of Biological Sciences, Madurai Kamaraj University, for his valuable guidance, scholarly inputs and consistent encouragement I received throughout the research work. This achievement is not possible without his guidance, support and encouragement. Under his guidance I successfully overcome many difficulties and learned a lot. I am very much thankful to him for selecting me up as a Ph.D. student.

I gratefully acknowledge Lt. Dr. N. Arun Nagendran and Dr. D. Pandiaraja for their encouragement and personal attention which have provided good and smooth basis for my Ph.D. tenure.

I am very much thankful to Mr. J. Joyson Joe Jeevamani, my fellow scholar who gives me valuable suggestions and made corrections, without his help I am not possible to make this thesis. I am thankful to Mr. N. Krishnankutty for his constant support and encouragement. My sincere thanks to my well wishers Mr. M .R. Anbarasan and Mrs. K. Saraswathi for their valuable suggestions during the study period.

I take this opportunity to sincerely acknowledge the Council of Scientific and Research Institute (CSIR), Government of India, New Delhi, for providing financial assistance in the form of Senior Research Fellowship which buttressed me to perform my work comfortably.

I deliver my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Principal, Head of the Department of Botany, Department of Bioresources Management and Management of Thiagarajar College, Madurai for providing necessary infrastructure and resources to accomplish my research work.
I express my special thanks to Prof. P. Sudhakar Swamy, Head, Department of Plant Sciences, School of Biological Sciences, Madurai Kamaraj University, for his genuine support throughout the research work. I also thank all the staff of Plant Sciences, School of Biological Sciences, Kamaraj University, Madurai for their kindness.

I sincerely thank the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Conservator of Forest (Virudhunagar District), Wildlife Warden (Ramanathapuram District) and Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park officials who were provided valuable support and also permission to carry out field work successfully.

I would like to thank Dr. S. K. Subramanian, former Head of the Department of Botany, Thiagarajar College who supported and guided on various occasions. I am thankful to Dr. M. Eyini, Dr. K. Rajendran, Dr. D. Kannan, and Dr. C. Balasubramanian for their imperative ideas during my study.

I would also like to thank some people from early days of my research tenure. Dr. K. Santhaguru, Dr. A. Sekar, Mr. A. Selvaraj, Dr. N. Banumathi, Dr. S. Sridharan, Former Associate Professors in Department of Botany, Thiagarajar College, Madurai.

I would also like to thank Dr. Ilangovan, Assistant Professor in Chemistry, who was among those who kept me going at the beginning. This list is incomplete without acknowledging Dr. M. Jothi Basu and Dr. M. Meenakshisundaram, who were the source of inspiration for me in my early days and who taught me many things.

My special acknowledgements go to all the people of Chinnapalam village of Pamban, Rameshwaram. I feel highly indebted to Mr. M. Patrick, Mr. Nambeeswaran, Ms. K. Nambulakshmi, Mr. M. Muthukumar and his family for rendering their help to me as their family member.

My friends Mr. J. D. Karthic, Mr. K. Anbuselvan and their family deserve a special thank for their constant support, motivation and care to me.

I am greatly indebted to Mr. R. Saravanam, Mr. T. S. Saravanam, Field Assistants, Botanical Survey of India, Mr. I. Raganathan, Mr. Pagalvendhan, Mr. S. Muralikrishnan, Mr. A. Muthuvalivitan, Mr. M. Mahesh, Mr. S. Saravanam, Mr. N. Kamaladhasan, Mr. N. Soundarajan, and Mr. R. Indhar Saidanya for their immense help.

I especially thank my parents and my two younger sisters and her family members. They are always supporting me and encouraging me with their best wishes.
I would like bestow my heartfelt thanks to my wife, Praveena Kamalakannan. She always there to cheering me up and stood by me through the good and bad times.

I extend my respect to my paternal and maternal Grandparents and all elders to my family. I don’t imagine a life without their blessings.

Finally, my thanks go to all the people who have supported me to complete the research work directly or indirectly.

B. KAMALAKANNAN