ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to place on record my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to 
Dr. S.D. Rizatumari, Reader, Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, 
University of Kerala for her inspiring guidance and supervision throughout the 
investigation and invaluable help in the preparation of the thesis.

My sincere thanks are due to Dr. K. Dhevendran, Head of the 
Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries for providing necessary facilities.

I am especially thanks to Dr. C.M. Aravindan, Professor (Retd.), 
Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries and Dr. P. Natarajan (Retd.), 
former Head of the Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries for their 
valuable suggestions and encouragements during the tenure of my study.

I am very much grateful to Dr. N.K. Balasubramanian, Reader, 
Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, Dr. Sudev and Sri Oommen, 
Department of Demography, University of Kerala for their valuable help for the 
statistical analysis of the data.

I also take this opportunity to thank Dr. Kurian Mathew Abraham and 
Dr. George Thomas, former Research Associates, Departments of Aquatic Biology 
and Fisheries for their valuable suggestions and assistance in identification of 
plankton and in analysis of the data.

I am very much grateful to the Department of Meteorology, 
Thiruvananthapuram for providing me with the meteorological data.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to Mr. V. Prasanthan, Anukumar 
and Dipin V.V for their immense help rendered to me.
I would be failing in my duty, if I do not express my heartfelt gratitude to my friends — Miss. Praseetha, Dr. Leena Grace, Mrs. Deepa S. Rajan, Miss. Anitha, Mr. Jayakrishnan, Mr. Pramod, Dr. Jisha, Dr. Jayakumari, Mrs. Padmini Devi, Dr. Nair Mallika Sukumaran and all other teaching and non-teaching staffs of Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries.

I express my heartfelt thanks to Michael Karlose and family (specimen collectors), Anchuthengu for their help in collecting the specimens during the course of my study.

I also express my thanks to Mr. Babu and Mrs. Jestina Pappy for their personal encouragement during the course of my study.

My thanks are also due to Mr. Anish T. Dharan, Mr. Fazil and Mrs. Baby Cleve of Unix.com, Kazhakuttom for the computer assistance. Finally I record my thanks with utmost sincerity to ‘God Almighty’ for his grace and blessings to complete this course.

Thiruvananthapuram
December 2004

B. Raju Kumar
Dedicated
to my most revered
Supervising Teacher