ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost I wish to express my humble and sincere thanks giving at the lotus feet of Omnipotent God for giving me an opportunity to take up a doctoral thesis and also for giving me the ability to complete it successfully.

I express my whole-hearted thanks to the Honorable Vice-Chancellor Dr. M. Thangaraju; Respected Registrar Dr. S. Gunasekaran and Respected Controller of Examinations Dr. A. Jayakumar, Periyar University, Salem for providing the chance to do doctoral research in this University.

I wish to express my heart-felt gratitude to my research supervisor Dr. T. Palvannan M.Sc., Ph.D., Assistant Professor and Head i/c, Department of Biochemistry, Periyar University, Salem for his excellent supervision and providing me with a challenging and interesting project to develop my own investigative and analytical skills. I am also greatly obliged for giving me the opportunity to work in his Bioprocess and Engineering Laboratory.

I wish to convey my utmost appreciation to Government of India, Ministry of Science & Technology, Department of Biotechnology (DBT) for providing the fund to carry out this valuable research work.

My sincere thanks are due to Dr. Johan M. Thevelein Ph.D, Professor and Head, Department of Molecular Cell Biology and Biotechnology, Katholieke University, Leuven, Belgium for providing expression vector and yeast strain to proceed in cloning work.

I wish to express my cheerful gratitude to Dr. K. Murugesan M.Sc., Ph.D., Researcher, School of Environmental Science & Engineering, Pohang University of science and Technology, Hyoja-dong, Pohang, South Korea for his invaluable guidance, frequent encouragement, timely help, kind advice and keen interest, which he offered me ever. Without his efforts it would have been impossible for me to complete this thesis.
I also wish to acknowledge Dr. V. Krishnakumar M.Sc., M.Phil., Ph.D., Professor and Head, Department of Physics, Periyar University, Salem for allowing to utilize his laboratory facilities at this end.

I am very thankful to Dr. P. Prakash M.Sc., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics, Periyar University, Salem for his kind help to carry out mathematical calculations.

I wish to convey my honest thanks to Dr. V. Ganesan M.Sc., Ph.D., Scientist, Acme ProGen Biotech (India) Private Limited, Salem, Tamil Nadu for constructive suggestions and allowing to utilize his laboratory facilities to do cloning and expression work.

My honest thanks are due to Dr. M. Suriyavathana M.Sc., Ph.D., Mr. M. Krishnaveni M.Sc., M.Phil., MBA., and Dr. V. Manju M.Sc., M.Phil., Ph.D., Assistant Professors in our department and also Mr. M. Vakkil M.Sc., M.Ed., M.Phil., Assistant Professor, Department of Education, Periyar University, Salem for their helpful suggestions.

I offer my thanks to Dr. S. Sadhasivam Ph.D., Researcher, Institute of Biomedical Engineering, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan; Dr. N. Santhanamoorthi Ph.D., DST-DFG Exchange Scientist, Department of Chemistry, Technische Universität München, Germany; Dr. R. Jayabalans Ph.D., Researcher, Faculty of Biotechnology, College of Agriculture, Chonbuk National University, Republic of Korea and Mr. M. Bala Subramanian M.Sc., Research Scholar, Department of Biotechnology, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore for their friendship, guidance and patience during this study.

I would also like to offer my thanks to research scholars Dr. T. Arivalagan M.A., Ph.D., Department of Tamil; Dr. P.S. Sivakumar M.A., Ph.D., and Mr. C. Tholkopian M.Sc., M.Phil., Department of Economics; Mr. G. Guruprasath M.Sc., M.Phil., Department of Physics; Dr. M. Muthukumar M.Sc., Ph.D, and Mr. M. Prasath M.Sc., Department of Chemistry, Periyar University, Salem for their warm and sincere friendship made me happy during my stay here.
Acknowledgement

My special thanks to colleague Mr. A. Periyasamy M.Sc., M.Phil., and Juniors Ms. M. Kalivani M.Sc., M.Phil., Mr. K. Balan M.Sc., M.Phil., Mrs. R. Poonkuzhali M.Sc., M.Phil., Ms. P. Pratheebaa M.Sc., M.Phil., Mr. M. Arulkumar M.Sc., Department of Biochemistry, Periyar University, Salem who offered their whole-hearted support during my project study.

My honest thanks are due to Prof. S. Thirunavukkarasu M.A., M.Phil., Department of English, Government Arts College, Salem for language corrections in this doctoral thesis.

I wish to record my loving gratitude to my family members Mrs. Chellamal Kandhapu Goundar, Mr. K. Palanivel, Mrs. P. Kalimani Papu, Mr. P. Rajasekaran and Ms. P. Manonmani and my relatives Mr. S. Subramaniam, Mrs. S. Rasamal, Mrs. R. Kalaiammal, Mrs. S. Balamani, Mr. R. Rajanderan Mr. R. Srinivasan, Mrs. B. Poongodi, Mr. K. Sakkthivel, Mr. R. Rasa Goundar, Mrs. Getha Selvaraj, Mr. V. Kannan, Mr. P. Bingal, Mr. Chandra Mohan, Mr. N. Ragu, Mrs. P. Kaliselvi and Baby Vanathi for their care, concern, affection and encouragement. I am grateful to their enthusiastic support to my doctoral study.

I express my thanks to non-teaching staff members Mr. P. Manivannan, Mrs. K. Dhanam, Mrs. S. Sarala and Mrs. N. Rani in our department for their kind assistances.

Finally, I express my sincere gratitude to the many hands and hearts that have made me comfortable during the entire period of my study.

[SATHISHKUMAR P]