ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

“Pallandu Pallandu Pallayiratthandu
Palakodi Noorayiram
Mallanda Thindol Manivanna
Unnsevadi Sevvi Thirukkappu
Om Namo Narayana”.

First of all, I would like to express my deep gratitude to my research supervisor, Dr. D. Radhika, for her guidance, encouragement at every stage of my research. I am indebted to her for her scientific orientation, encouragement and support during my research study, especially her patience in correcting the papers and final thesis drafts during her already busy time.

I sincerely thank our beloved Secretary Thiru A.P.C.V. Chockalingam for giving me this rare and privileged opportunity of pursuing my research in V.O.C. College.

I am indebted to Prof. Maragathasundaram, Principal, V.O.C. College.

I am grateful to Dr. C. Veerabahu, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, V.O.Chidambaram College, Tuticorin for his valuable comments and insights, encouragement and support.

I thank Dr. J. Edwin, Head, Department of Zoology for providing the necessary facilities. I also thank Dr. V. Sivakumar, Associate Professor, for his valuable suggestions and encouragement right from the start of the work, throughout the study period and Dr. V. Ramadhas, for his critical reviews, thoughtful revision to improve this thesis.
My warmest thanks to Thiru Joseph. P. Royan, Goa (Consultant Artemia Culture) and Thiru M. Michael Motha, M/s. Sahaya Madha Salterns (P) Ltd., Veppalodai Chemicals, Tuticorin for giving me the basic knowledge and suggestions in the design of the experiments.

I proudly thank, Mr. K.S. Jesudoss Arockiam, M.Sc., M.Ed., M.Phil., A.H.M., St. Francis Xavier’s Higher Secondary School who is my inspiration for my whole research carrier.

I thank Thiru K. Balasubramanian, M.Sc., Deputy Superintendent of Salt, Karapad Salt Factory, Government of India, Tuticorin for his help in the analysis of my samples.

I am greatly indebted to my uncles S.S.P.R. Pandian and S.S.P.R. Ramakrishnan for lending me all help during the research at their Urani Salterns, Tuticorin which was my site for research.

I am very grateful to the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, New Delhi for providing me with a scholarship (Project Associate) to pursue my Ph.D.

I am greatly indebted to my co-research scholar Mrs. R. Priya, for her constant help and critical suggestions throughout the course of my work. But for her help in editing and perfecting, this thesis could not have been complete.

I owe a special thanks to my colleagues Dr. Athiperumalsamy, Dr. V. Swarnalakshmi, Ms. K. Kavitha, M.Sc. Dr. K.P. Kumara Guru Vasagam and research scholars, Mr. S. Lakshmana Senthil, M.Sc. and Mr. R. Sankar, M.Sc. for their endless kindness and all help at SPIC, Research Centre, V.O.Chidambaram College, Tuticorin.
I am immensely grateful to my parents and sisters, Ms. J. Rani Sumithra, M.A. B.Ed., Ms. P. J. Vijaya Lakshmi, M.A., Mrs. P. Shobana Lakshmi Ramesh Kuamr, B.E. and Mrs. R. Shanthi Narayanan, B.Com. who have always encouraged me. My mother and father who have always given me all physical and moral support deserve my gratitude.

I thank my friends Mr. G. Ilangovan, M.B.A., (Srivatsan Academy), Tuticorin and his staff Ms. S. Mala, B.E., Ms. P. Sudha, B.E. for their valuable help and moral support doing my research and Mr. A. Iyappan, Mr. P. Stalin, B.E., Mr. R. Chezhian, B.E., Mr. A. Maria Anto Joy, B.E. (U.S.A.), Mr. Uday Reddy (Germany), Mr. A. Raja Gomez, Mr. G. Venkadeshwaran, B.E. (Abuthabi), Mr. G. Poisollan @ Raja, Mr. A. Packiaraj Moraiz and Mr. P. Vasantharaj, B.Com., Coimbatore, Ms. S. Mohana Ragu, M.A., M.Phil., Dr. Shanmugapriya, M.B.T., Dr. Vijayakavirekha, M.B.T., Dr. Banumathi, M.Sc., Ph.D.

My special thanks to Mr. M. Syed Noordeen and Mr. V. Babu Shanmugasundaram for their help in printing and compiling this thesis.

I thank the laboratory staffs Mr. Krishnan and Mr. Subbiah for their help rendered during the period of my study.