DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis entitled 'Taxonomic and genetic characterization of black pepper and related species', submitted by me for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Botany of the University of Calicut, contains the results of bonafide research work done by me at Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut, under the guidance of Prof (Dr.) K. S. Manilal (Former Head, Department of Botany, University of Calicut), D-37, Jawahar Nagar, Kozhikode and the Co-guidance of Dr. K. Nirmal Babu, Senior Scientist, Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut. This thesis or part of it has not been submitted to any other university for the award of any other degree or diploma. All sources of help received by me during the course of this study have been duly acknowledged.

Place: Calicut
Date: 10-5-06

(Saji. K. V.)