ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. Thara K. Simon, Senior Lecturer in Botany, Union Christian College, Aluva and Dr. M.S. Latha, Reader in Biochemistry, School of Biosciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam for their inspiring guidance and encouragement throughout the course of this work.

I offer my humble gratitude to Dr. Raju K. John, Principal, Union Christian College, Aluva, Dr. Rajan Varughese, former principal, U.C. College and Dr. Sankar Sasidhar, Director, School of Biosciences, M.G. University, Kottayam for providing the facilities to carry out the present study. I am indebted to Prof. Santha M. Mathew, Professor and Head, Department of Botany, U.C. College for her constant help and moral support.

I recall with gratitude Sri. C.V. Jacob, Secretary, St. Peter’s College Trust, Kolenchery, Prof. Joy. C. George, Principal, Dr. M.P. Mathai, former principal and Dr. Abi N. Eldo Head of the Department of Botany, St. Peter’s College, Kolenchery for their valuable advice and support.

I cannot express my thanks in words to Dr. Jose Padikala and Dr. R. Kuttan, Amala Cancer Research Centre, Trichur, Prof. P.M. Mathew, Rtd. Prof. of Botany, Kerala University and Dr. P.K.K. Nair, former Dy. Director NBRI Lucknow for their constructive criticism and scholarly suggestions. Thanks are due to Dr. C. Joyce Mathew, Prof. C. M. Mathew, Dr. Joy Job Kulavelil, Dr. K. I. Mani Varghese and Dr. P. Thomas Mathew of U.C. College, for their timely help and encouragement.

The library facilities extended by Union Christian College, Aluva, St. Peter’s College Kolenchery, M.G.University, Kottayam, Kerala University, Trivandrum, Calicut University, Calicut, CMFRI, Ernakulam, KFRI, Peechi, Kerala Agriculture University Vellanikara, Trichur and Amala Cancer Research Centre, Trichur are gratefully acknowledged. I am thankful to the
authorities of Calicut University and The Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore.

I recall with gratitude, Dr. G.M. Nair, Director, TBGRI, Trivandrum, Dr. Sam T. Kurumthottical, Dept. of Agronomy, College of Horticulture, Vellanikara, Dr. Samuel Mathew, Assoc. Prof., AMPRS, Odakali, Dr. Pradeep A.K., Herbarium Curator, Dept. of Botany, Calicut University and Smt. P. Vijayalakshmy, Senior Scientific Assistant, District Soil Testing Laboratory, Vyttila for their valuable suggestions.

I place on record my heartfelt gratitude to all my teachers and colleagues for their encouragement. I am also thankful to Dr. Sarala Samuel, Dr. Nileena C.B., Dr. Geetha K., Dr. T.T. Cherian, Smt. K.K. Vahida and Smt. K.D. Girija for their help and suggestions. Thanks are due to Prof. K.P. Kuriakose and Prof. Cherian Petrose Rtd. Professors, Dept. of English, St. Peter’s College, Kolenchery.

The financial assistance provided by the U.G.C. and the timely help of the Staff of M.G. University are gratefully acknowledged. I am thankful to Jenil Communications, Kalamassery for the quick and neat execution of the manuscript.

Above all, I am for ever indebted to my parents, husband Adv. Isaac T.P., children Athira, Ambily, Ajay and all the other members of my family for their support, unceasing encouragement, boundless affection, prayer and personal sacrifices which helped me a lot to overcome the difficulties during the tenure of this research work.

GOD ALMIGHTY has bestowed on me the opportunity and blessed me with courage, health and confidence to undertake this small endeavour successfully. I bow my head before HIM.

LISSEY K. P.