ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

With profound joy I wish to record my heartful gratitude to my guide and supervisor Dr. Dunston P. Ambrose, Director, Entomology Research Unit, St. Xavier's College, Palayankottai, for providing me an opportunity to work with him in his Dept of Environment and Forest (DOEn), Govt of India sponsored scheme on "PREY - PREDATOR INTERACTION OF THREE HARPACTORINE REDUVIID PREDATORS (INSECTA: HETEROPTERA: REDUVIIDAE) OF WESTERN GHATS, PENINSULAR INDIA". With deep sense of gratitude I express my thanks to him for his valuable guidance, for the critical analysis of the work and the manuscript at different stages of its preparation. I owe a special obligation to the members of his family for their goodwill shown to me.

I express my sincere thanks to Rev. Fr. Dr. M. Packiaraj, S. J. Principal and Prof. M. Thomas Punithan, Head. Dept of Zoology for providing institutional facilities.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. B. Victor for his good will and encouragement.
I owe a special obligation to Mr. K. Rajan for his encouraging words and scholarly guidance.

I am also grateful to Dr. M. A. Haniffa, Dr. M. Narayanan, Dr. T. A. Sethuramalingam, Dr. J. P. Arockiam, Dr. K. Sahayaraj, Prof. B. Xavier Innocent and Dr. S. Maria Sabastian and other staffs of Zoology Dept for their enthusiastic words throughout the course of my work.

I am also grateful to Dr. P. J. Edward George, Dr. M. A. Claver, Mr. Gabrial Paul Raj, Mr. S. Chidambaranathan and Mr. M. Sundarraj for their help.

I owe my sincere thanks and appreciation to Dr. S. Arockiasamy, Scientist, Ponni Sugars and Chemicals, Erode and Mr. P. Mariappan, Scholar, CRABU, BARD, Tiruchy.

I am also grateful to Dr. J. A. J. Raja, CPMB, TNAU, Coimbatore, Dr. Murugesan, Professor, TNAU, Killikulam, Dr. Dominic Rajkumar, Scientist, SPK centre for Environmental sciences, Mononmaniam Sundaranar University, Alwarkurichi, Mr. M. Muruganandam and Mr. Jesu Arockiaraj, CARE, for their valuable suggestion and scholarly counsel in my academic endeavour.

My sincere thanks are also due to Mr. S. Sridhar and other scholars of CARE, Mr. Ramachandran and other scholars of ABC, and scholars of CBB.
I would like to record my gratitude to Dr. S. S. M. Dhas, Dr. S. Prasanna Kumar (Scott Christian College, Nagercoil) and Dr. J. Edwin (V. O. C. College, Thuthukudi) for their goodwill.

My sincere thanks are also due to Mr. Antony Pushparaj and Mr. Rayan of Deans office.

I fondly remember the moral support of my UG and PG teachers.

The fellowship provided by Dept. of Environment and Forests (DOEn), Govt. of India, New Delhi, through the research scheme sanctioned to my supervisor from 1996 to 1999 is gratefully acknowledged.

I express my sincere thanks to Mr. CT. Kannan and Miss. K. Arumugam, ABHI DTP, Tirunelveli for their efforts and pain in computerising the dissertation neatly and correctly to my utmost satisfaction.

The Almighty power has given me so much of strength by His grace in all the odd times of my life. I could not express my feelings and thankfulness to the Almighty in words.

Last but not least, I humbly thank my father Mr. A. Samuel, mother Mrs. Indira and my brothers Mr. S. Menon, Mr. S. Alex, Mr. S. Satish and my sister Miss. S. Bharathi for their unflinching prayerful support.

S. Prem Mathi Maran