## ACKNOWL EDGEMENTS

I deem it a matter of great pleasure to express my profound indebtedness to Dr.M.Daniel M.Sc., Ph.D, Reader, Department of Botany, M.S.University of Baroda for his invaluable guidance and constant help during the course of this work.

I take pleasure in expressing my deep sense of gratitude to Prof.S.D.Sabnis, M.Sc. Ph.D. Dip. Museo. Head, Dept. of Botany, M.S.University of Baroda for all his help, suggestions and kind words of encouragement extended to me during my research work.

I gratefully acknowledge, Prof.A.R.Mehta, M.Sc. Ph.D. former Head, Dept of Botany, M.S.University of Baroda for providing me the facilities to carryout my investigations.

I am profoundly thankful to Dr. Arun Arya, Lecturer, Department of Botany, M.S.University of Baroda for his very sincere help and useful suggestions.

My special thanks to Dr.P.T.Kalaichelvan, Lecturer, CAS in Botany, University of Madras for all his suggestions and help rendered to me.

My heartfelt thanks to all my teachers at Madras Christian College, Tambaram for having introduced me to plant science, but for whom I wouldn't have taken up research.

I am thankful to the authorities of the Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew, England for confirming the fungal cultures.

My sincere thanks to all my labmates for their kind co-operation and help.

I greatly appreciate Mr. David Saj Mathew, Mr.Mothi Kumar and all my other friends, for all their good help, encouragement and good wishes.

Finally, I thank Mrs. Titus for the excellent job of typing the thesis.

Abroken K. Joy Abraham