

Acknowledgment

This thesis would not have been possible without the guidance and the help of several individuals who in one way or another contributed and extended their valuable assistance in the preparation and completion of this study.

Life blessed me with the opportunity to meet Professor A.V.Ramachandran, former Dean, Faculty of Science and Head Department of Zoolgy, The M.S.University of Baroda. With his enthusiasm, his inspiration, his immense knowledge and his great efforts to explain things clearly and simply, he helped to make science fun for me. This thesis is a small tribute to an exceptional man from a student still anxious to learn from him.

My utmost gratitude goes to my thesis advisor Dr.R.V.Devkar, lecturer, Department of Zoology, for the continuous support of my Ph.D study and research, for his patience, motivation, enthusiasm, and understanding. His guidance helped me in all the time of research and writing of this thesis.

I am greatly indebted to **Dr. Geeta Padate**, Head Department of Zoology, the M.S. University of Baroda for providing necessary facilities and encouragement for my research work.

I am thankful to **University Grant Commission**, **New Delhi**, **India** for providing financial assistant in form of Research Fellowship in Science for Meritorious student (RFSMS).

This thesis grew out of a series of dialogues and discussion with my fellow lab mate Mr. RavirajSinh N Jadeja. Throughout my thesis, he provided encouragement, sound advice, good company, lots of good ideas and moral support as I hurdle all the obstacles in the completion of this research work.

Sincere thanks are extended to **Dr. Ansarullah** for enlightening me the first glance of research.

I am also indebted to **Dr. Hemchandra Singh**, D.M.College, Imphal **and Dr. T.B.Singh**, Oriental College, Imphal for all the helped in exploring and sending the required information from Manipur.

I owe special thanks to Prof. C. G. Joshi, Prof. D. N. Rank, Dr. Umed Ramani, and all the research staff of Anand Agricultural University, Anand, Gujarat for their guidance and help during real time PCR work.

I give my sincere thanks to Dr. K. S. Rajput, Deapartment of Botany, Dr. Parsanna, Deapartment of Chemistry, Dr. Hemandra Vekaria, Department of Biochemistry, for providing chemicals and instrumental help.

Sincere thanks are extended to **Dr. Anupam Basu**, Deaparment of Zoology, University of Burdwan, Kolkata for providing me with the opportunity to acquire knowledge and expertise in molecular techniques And, also for providing numerous ideas and useful discussions throughout this course.

Special Gratitude goes to **Prof. Sarita Gupta,** Head Department of Biochemistry, the M.S.U.Baroda, **Sun**

Pharmaceutical Research Centre, Vadodara and Zydus Research centre for providing experimental rats and mice as and when required.

I am also indepted to **Dr. Biren Thakkar**, Scientist, Zydus Research centre, Dr. Virendra Zala, Scientist, Sun Pharmaceutical research centre, Vadodara and **Dr. Deven Dandekar**, Director, toxicology Division, Xenomatrix, USA for the all the help and encouragement throughout the present study.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all the teachers in the Department, especially Dr.P.C. Mankodri, Dr. Sunita Salunke and Dr. Prakash Pillai for their valuable instructions and suggestions throughout this course. I also wish to express my appreciation to Dr. Bhavna Barucha who made many valuable suggestions and gave constructive advice.

I also express my gratitude to my former seniors Dr. Raktim Mukherjee, Dr. Niraj Joshi, Dr. Sudip Banerjee, and Dr. Prem Kumar Singh from the Department of Zoology who had supported me in my research work. I want to thank them for all their help, support, interest and valuable hints.

Special thanks are due to Mr.Jayanth Sankhari for providing technical help, Mr. Mahendra Jain, Department of Pharmacy, the M.S.University of Baroda for phytochemical analysis work and Dr.Tribhuwan Bind, AIRF, Delhi for providing technical help during Flow cytometry analysis.

I am grateful to the **non teaching staff**, especially Mr. Sangeet, Mr. Sailesh and Mr. Parmar in the departments of Zoology

for helping the departments to run smoothly and for assisting me in many different ways.

Special thanks are due to Mr. Sripath for attending animal house that improved the quality of this study.

Thanks are also due to my lab mates, Dr. Darshee, Mr. Dipak, Ms. Swati, Mr. Jaymesh, Ms. Kiran, Ms. Chandani, Ms. Nirjara and Mrs. Bhavya for their wholehearted cooperation during my Ph.D. work. And special thanks to Mr. Ayaz Rangrez for all the help, moral support and encouragement.

I am blessed with wonderful friends and juniors, Ms. Anuradha Devi, Ms. Sobita Devi, Ms. Ch. Chandabadani and Mr. Th. Hitler who never denied me with their help and support and for all the fun we have had in the last four years.

I also thank my juniors, **Ankit**, **Kapil**, **Manjur and Ronak** for being friendly and helpful as and when needed.

Lastly, and most importantly, I would like to express special appreciation to my mother Mrs. Thounaojam Mina Devi, who gently offer counsel and unconditional support at each turn of the road. She always kept me away from family responsibilities and encouraged me to concentrate on my study. I also wish to thank my brother Mr.Rakesh Luwang, my sister in law Mrs.Nandini and my little nephew Bon Bon for their incessant encouragement, love and support during my research work.

In memory of my father, who I love and miss dearly.

Ms. Thounaojam Menaka Chanu