TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapters	Title	Page No
Chapter 1	**Introduction**	
1	General Introduction	1
1.1	Heterocyst differentiation	3
1.2	Interaction between Heterocyst and vegetative cell	4
1.3	How do cyanobacteria sense Nitrogen status?	5
1.4	Role of NtcA as sensor of nitrogen status	7
1.5	Factors affecting NtcA activity	8
1.6	Genes involved in Heterocyst formation	10
1.7	*ntcA*	12
1.8	Role of 2-OG levels in the activity of NtcA	13
1.8.1	Expression of NtcA in *Anabaena* PCC 7120	13
1.8.2	Role of NtcA in heterocyst differentiation	15
1.9	Relationship between 2-OG and free calcium ions	16
1.10	Role of *nrrA* in the activation of *hetR*	17
1.11	HetR- the master regulator of heterocyst differentiation	17
1.12	Pattern formation and maintenance	18
1.13	Maturation of heterocyst	22
1.14	Late events in the heterocyst maturation	22
1.14.1	Genomic rearrangements in *Anabaena* PCC 7120	23
1.15	Presence of *nifD* element in Cyanobacteria	24
1.16	*nifD* element excision in *Anabaena* PCC 7120	25
1.17	*hupL* element	27
1.18	*fdxN* element	28
1.19	Site-Specific Recombinases	30
1.20	Objectives	33
Chapter 2	**Role of accessory sequence(s) in the site-specific recombination mediated by XisA**	
2.1	Introduction	34
2.2	Materials and Methods	36
2.2.1	Antibiotic concentrations used	36
2.2.2	Bacterial strains and plasmid used	37
2.2.3	Construction of *xisA* containing plasmids	38
2.2.4	Construction of substrate plasmids NG1 and NG2 with two target sites	40
2.2.4.1	pNG1	42
2.2.4.2	pNG2	42

2.2.5	Rearrangement assay	43
2.3	Results	44
2.4	Discussion	
Chapter 3	**Characterization of XisA as restriction endonuclease**	
3.1	Introduction	48
3.2	Materials and methods	50
3.2.1	Culture conditions	50
3.2.2	Bacterial strains and plasmids used	50
3.2.3	Construction of substrate plasmids	51
3.3	Results	63
3.4	Discussion	71
3.5	Summary	74
Chapter 4	**To study intermolecular recombination of 11 kb element in *E. coli***	
4.1	Introduction	75
4.2	Materials and methods	78
4.2.1	Growth and culture conditions	78
4.2.2	Bacterial strains and plasmids used	78
4.2.3	Plasmids used	78
4.2.3.1	pMX25	79
4.2.3.2	pKK1	79
4.2.3.3	pMC71A	80
4.2.4	Methodology	80
4.2.5	Strategy employed for selection of intramolecular or intermolecular recombination	82
4.3	Results	83
4.4	Discussion	85
4.5	Summary	87
Chapter 5	**Functional characterization of XisA and XisC domains**	
5.1	Introduction	88
5.2	Materials and methods	90
5.2.1	Bacterial strains and plasmids used	90
5.2.2	Construction of Plasmids	91
5.2.2.1	Construction pNT184 plasmid containing of N-terminal of XisA	91
5.2.2.2	Construction pCT184 plasmid containing of C-terminal of XisA	92
5.2.2.3	Construction pNTCT184 plasmid containing both N-terminal and C-terminal of XisA	94

5.2.2.4	Construction of pCT-C containing C-terminal of XisC	94
5.2.2.5	Construction of chimeric excisase	96
5.2.3	Generation of double transformants	97
5.2.4	Monitoring the rearrangement in various *E. coli* strains	100
5.2.5	Monitoring the endonuclease activity of regions of XisA and XisC	101
5.3	Results	102
5.3.1	Excision analysis of XisA N- and C-terminal regions	102
5.3.2	Excision analysis of XisC C-terminal region	102
5.3.3	Excision analysis of chimeric excisase	102
5.3.4	Endonuclease activity of excisase regions and chimeric excisase	103
5.4	Discussion	106
Chapter 6	***xisA* promoter studies using GFP reporter gene**	
6.1	Introduction	111
6.2	Materials and methods	114
6.2.1	Bacterial strains and plasmids used	114
6.2.2	Media	115
6.2.2.1	Preparation of BG11 media	115
6.2.3	Maintenance of Anabaena culture	116
6.2.4	Plasmid used for the Triparental conjugation	116
6.2.4.1	pRL623	116
6.2.4.2	pAM 1956	116
6.2.4.3	pRL443	117
6.2.5	Cloning of *xisA* promoter	117
6.2.6	Transformation of PXisA::*gfp* in *Anabaena* PCC 7120 by triparental conjugation	119
6.2.6.1	Electroporation and natural transformation	119
6.2.6.2	Tri parental conjugation	120
6.2.6.3	PCR of neomycin gene to confirm the transformation	121
6.3	Results	121
6.4	Discussion	135
	References	137